

Standard Scrap Book

No.	Description	
1000	9½ x 7½	152 Pages
1004	12¼ x 10½	168 Pages
1006	14½ x 10¼	184 Pages
1008	14¾ x 10½	300 Pages
* 1005	16½ x 12	240 Pages
Extra Quality Binding		

Made in U. S. A.

A BOORUM & PEASE PRODUCT



ISAAC BACKUS.

Engraved expressly for Haynes' Baptist Cyclopædia.

F. Micheloni Lith. 111 Nassau St. N.Y.

Tangier County Virginia June 1877

Elder Backus thro the help of God I continue to this day, & I well remembering the happiness I enjoyed in ~~in~~ having an old Disciple by the name of Backus, preach at Elder John Leland's, from John III. 14, and at Pine-Flatte Church from Rev. XII. 11. and at Uncle John Bledsoe's, from John IV. 10. & furthermore remembering the kind Friend of Love on which you came. I now having an opportunity by the hand of Bro. Brame I have taken my pen to form a little more acquaintance - (if it would not be too much I would say Correspondance) I thank the Lord Bro. the Gospel of Christ Jesus is Preached with a great deal of Light & Boldness our Churches appears to grow in knowledge of the Mysteries there-of, but yet being young (many of us) & unskill'd in the word we should think our selves sufficiently blest, if some old hand for Jesus, would visit of Lion Ya Bro come over into our Massadonia & help us the harvest is Great & Labourers few at Least Bro. Let me share in your prayers & if opportunity affords write to me & May the Lord unite his people you & more untill they shall all meet & with one heart & voice praise our Great Redeemer for ever - Amen & now dear Bro Adieu

Ephraim Abell

of your unworthy Bro, in the Lord Ephraim Abell

Longman's Dictionary

The author of this work has endeavored to give a complete and accurate account of the history of the English language, from its origin to the present time. It is a work of great labor and research, and will be found to contain much valuable information. The author has consulted the most authentic authorities, and has given a full and complete account of the history of the language, from its origin to the present time. It is a work of great labor and research, and will be found to contain much valuable information.

9. 23.
14. 14. 14.
14. 14. 14.

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Printed by...

Fauquier Virginia
Dear Bro,

I was fav^d with a very entertaining Gift from you
of a Broom for which I desire now to return my acknowledged thank-
sness ~~in~~ in which you mentioned your age as an apology for your
coming to visit our part of the world which I think a very e-
fficient one. - I cannot say that there is a certainty of any of our
ministers seeing your parts shortly - But Bro. Absalom Waller
thought of Travelling to New England -
I have the 3^d Vol. of your Church History with which I am
much pleas^d - Religion in our parts is at this time
(parently) at a stand professors appears steady - but not much
visible Love Some Revivals has been in this State within a
few years - but I know of none just now - I expect you
have heard that a great Discord respecting politics prevails
in Virginia - there is some thing of it - there is some that
say they think the Alien, & Sedition Laws are unconstitutional
others say they think they are ^{not} - and there has been much
breathe spent upon it & altho the two opinions has given
names to each other - Such as enemies to Government or Democrats
Friends to Government or Aristocrats Yet all say they are
determined to the Last of their Lives & Property to maintain
the Federal Constitution [Inviolable] altho the Shaking among
the nations have put Virginia in a Camarous frame
yet I hope the Lord will save us from Assassination
& Infurrection - What the Lord ~~may~~ may so direct our
executive & Legislative Bodies as to instrumentally secure
the happiness & Confidence of the people & that
God may reign gloriously is the prayer
of your unworthy Bro, in the Lord Elisha A. Bell

Rev. Jacob Barker
Hosack Hills
Hudson River

Eph. Abell,
Apr. 20. 1799.

Answered July 10. 1799.

Rec. July 3.

Write me by the first
Opportunity & deliver it to
J. B.

1793
19
1793

For upon a Review of your Sermon the other Day I
think it savours too much of a self-Determining power
in the will: whereas I believe you think the will
allway follows the last Dictate of understanding
nevertheless that the understanding is as much depraved as
I will furthermore that a Grand Cause of the oppo-
sition of the will lies in the understanding that is
to say the Darkness of the understanding
pray think on these things and may the Lord give
us understanding in all things this from a friend
Dated April the 10: 1793

I suppose this refers to a sermon
I d. pr. at Sreestown Apr. 7.
This I rec. Apr. 15. l. 13.

Fauquier & Nig. April 4th 1797

Dearl^y. Belov'd,

I rec^d. yours by Bro. Brame, of the 1st of
Sept^r 1795, the contents of which, was truly both
pleasing and convicting; pleasing in that it stated
so much Information, of the use, & progress of
the Glorious Gospel of Christ, in your part of the
World. Convicting in so plain a discovery of your
ready mind (after 49 years spent in the cause of
Christ) to undertake the Long Journey to Virginia
(if health) had been sufficient: your longing desire
& furor of Spirit, to undo Lions & Panthers & Lead
her to ward a day of Release.

it is still a gloomy time in the greatest part
this State, Iniquity. abounds, & the Love of Many
Waxing cold - both Deism, & Infidelity, discovers
much boldness; as tho they would rush off on our
Lion, ^{say a flood,} & if possible destroy the glory thereof, but I hope
the Spirit of the Lord is Raising a Standard.

To Mr
Isaac Backus
in Middleborough
Mass

Anonymous Letter
Recd. Apr. 18
1795.

Ab
20.1

July

Write to me by the first
Op^ort^o & deliver of 1795

Against them; the Gospel is (I hope) made
the Light shines & I hope the Mouth of
these Gainfayers is in a measure ~~stopt~~
But I have generally thought that none
will be effectually ~~stopt~~ except him that
Openeth the Eyes of the Blind, engages in the
work.

my Love to you & beg an interest in
your Prayers Yours in the Best of

Bonds Ephm. Abilly

Elmer Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Massachusetts

Stephen Abell,
April 11, 1997
Rec'd June 23.
A.B.

Abel
p. 17

July

Write to me by the first
Op. 14 & O. 1400 1796

To Mr
Elmer Backus
in Middleborough
Shefe

Stephen Abell
Rec'd. Apr. 18
1798.

Bridgewater September the 5 1789. These few lines
I am writing you the other day you my very dear

Norwich August 23th 1756, all
Brother Backus Sir- your
in
These may inform that your friends are work
all well - Mother hath bin poorly for church
young
sum time, but now is as well as Commencing
It is a time of general health with us is
Blessed be God for it - hoping these lines
will find you & yours well - I am desired
by y^e owners of y^e iron works - to Right
to you to desire you to - See if you can
send us a labor honest forge man that he shew
is a good workman at refining and the
Drawing of iron, we would chase a single
man - one that is temperate - if to be
found - there is a good chance for one
there is a large stock - and soon will
be water - to carry business on smart - I
trust, but as to them things, you know as
well as any body - and if you can find
one - and Lett us know as soon as possible you
will oblige your Brother with others
Joshua Abell

P.S.

If you should find one that is
inclined to come and sett out with
us - it might late well. J. A.

if the seen faithfully that for your remembrance
great favor your most unworthy friend in
your bonds Isaac Abell of Bristol

Atoll Aug 3 1950
L. J. J. J. J.

Mr. J. J. J. J. J.
J. J. J. J. J. J. J.
J. J. J. J. J. J. J.

Recd. Aug 28 1950
J. J. J. J. J.

Recd. Aug 28 1950
J. J. J. J. J.

Briegwater September the 5 1789 these subtitles
 your church meeting the other day you my very dear
 there make a vote to this effect considering inform you that
 some who are not of your church have we are all
 and the lead in singing meaning Silas Leathe Corrage in
 above those that the church have chosen being his work
 suppose and know that we are Capable of leading aded to our church
 those that the church have chosen for you / the are young
 that your ~~brother~~ Samuel Jones Solomon my inquiring
 ashet I have Solomon Allen and Rufus Allen their facis
 chosen tuners of hope you will have enough to me very
 out us you say that you willingly have ^{sould} us ed truth pre
 in singing under them but we will not never is aroling on
 y unde that Constitution and you have forbid of beleue that
 others to sing besides the above mentioned it far of and
 fous we do not intend to come and take the in will be shor
 d Seat and hear Rufus Allen blow his litle rding to the
 even god Deacon Shaw seemed to be offend brother let our
 me for searching his son Rufus as he did his ner prayers for
 other Deacon Allen in reading the psalm re humiliation
 in it was his turn this from love to all the
 ir hearly friend Elijah Allen ther Noah Allen

for the great question that I never in
 land at this day which you refer to I have
 thing about it as I live in the remote land
 the anthe the great truth that is containd
 the word of god is for him that is laugh in
 words to communicate to him that teacheth &c
 before it ought to be done from day openly
 in this is all that I can write on this
 much un ^{his} can hold for as records
 ll prove; for your connection I am
 aintle with but not your person I regard
 for as one of the fathers in the church that
 stood in the gap against civil oppression
 for liberty through the heat of the day
 Now in the twilight may you not write
 your post when spiritual wisdom is
 coming up duple and in high places but may
 stand your ground like a well tried soldier clot
 ing the seen faithfully that for your reward
 the great fruit your most unworthy friend in
 gospel bonds Isaac Allen of Bristol

Recd Aug 28 1889
J. B.

Elijah Allen,
Recd Sept. 6. 1889.
J. B.

Isaac Backus
in Middleborough

I suppose you are sensible that it opens
a door to all manner of harm and even to mobbing
itself and to their taking up their conduct as
being wrong they never have done it as a rule
that I do not see the wisdom of them but
to be right if one is informed and I believe it
it coincides with what I have heard them hate to
open up: and Ellen Smith's bringing hand for the
fellowship of the association allowing that he had to show
them what such evidence of the matter as their
Ministers of course that those was I think rather
to discover darkness in them than ill conduct
in him: and to say if the matter has had a
fair hearing by a counsel and they have brought
to their judgement in his favor has a gospel
right to fellowship of the association I think.

1790 August 6 ad 1102 these jubiles
 with my hearty love to you my very dear
 brother and sister I would Inform you that
 through the mercy of the Lord we are all
 well & long to hear from you and your
 dear brother take Corrage in
 for the Lord is Reviving his work
 there has been 5 parsons aded to our church
 about a month the sum of the are young
 covants and there is many inquiring
 the way to Zion having their facis
 either dard It seemes to me very
 Evident that light and truth pre
 vail and that the Lord is availing on
 his undisturbed affairs of beleve that
 the later day glory is not far of and
 these days of tribulation will be short
 for the Elect sake according to the
 promise of Christ dear brother let our
 prayers be doing I beg your prayers for
 me that I may have more humiliation
 and sanctification in my love to all the
 saints soiremain young brother Noah Aden

Exile of January 1791

Honored Sir: with due reverence:
 as I have been deeply concerned in the
 life cuttings that have arisen in the ch
 church at this time I have been to make
 a sum remembrance on your letter to the
 Rev. Smith of the 7th of Nov. last
 which I had opportunity to peruse
 up to a being at your house and
 discussing movingly I dont dispute
 I would inform you Sir that the
 difficulty is not with him but a party
 of people: and as to his paing etc. I
 except on any part their of I do not
 see a worse mistake or something worse
 I would be understood since the time
 far to in the letter to you: this I do
 say dis course that I heard pass between
 them since that time: that John
 Smith had a child in Calowship white

that they dance? I suppose to be
the to ~~the~~ truth I have heard so
much said about it that I have reason
to believe it is true that one of his children
- men did actually dance twice and yet
not excommunicated and yet pre-
- cept is their that proves that to
be to far a disorderly walk as to make it
a point of ~~excommunication~~ ^{separation}
we should yet ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{ent} ~~ent~~ in that matter.
Now it is not too late yet. (I want
Scripture not Edwards things.) I
suppose you will allow it to be as high
a crime for the head of a family and
a church member to open their doors
for dancing as to dance. Because the
man is one of those brethren that ad-
mitted this dancing in y^e his phrase and
presence. As to the judgment of the
council ~~on~~ held here it is what we think
they ought to come to long before

and shall we give up our own opinions
because a large council agreed with us.
for these affairs have had a hearing by a large
council and long since by a larger con-
-ference and not one dissent in the whole
and I do think that every person on earth
ought to be as satisfied till such time
as they have some further evidence of that
being wrong than merely the saying so
of a party though it were the whole of them
together. I believe had you been present as
others were you would have thought so too
- and did ye one of the council said that
he thought if they were to have fifty thou-
-sands not be a dissent in the whole of them
as to Popery as you prefer to it have
not much to offer on that subject if it
is warranted on ^{being} amplified in scripture
to consider such as professed them it is quite
other ways I suppose it is wrong. Look to the other
people

Noah Alden
Letter Aug. 6. 1462.

To Mr. Isaac

From. Stafford
Aug. 6. 1462.

Recd. from
in New York
22 Dec. 1462
Alden

Recd. Sep. 5
8. 13-

Recd. Alden
22 Sept. 6. 1489.
9. 23.

Recd. Aug. 28. 1462.

9. 13-

I suppose
a done to it and
itself and as to
being being the
that I do not
to be right by
it certainly
years ago: and
fellowship of the
their was
minutes of an
to discover
in him: and
fair hearing
to their
right to

Isaac Backus

John W. Alden

Jan. 6. 1491.
Recd. Jan. 16.
8. 13.

Isaac Alden

Ullingham March 21 1768 Dear brother these few lines with the
harty love to you and yours & hoping you are all in good health
thru the goodness of god we were when I left home which was
tenth day of this instant and as to my present surcomstances
think things appear quite dark as to settling at Sunderland for
I do not seem to be agreed to go forward to gather in to church
te and the doors in the towers around are shut so that I think
are but were little room for labor in that part of the vineyard
that I thought it was my duty to come down to Ullingham
see them according to their desire last fall and at so in answer
a letter that they sent me this winter and to answer anyone
and I find the brethren glad by receive me and their is a door
hear for preaching of the gospel and the Church as far as I can see
sincerely united and agreed and I propose to tarry two sabbaths
and the Church and I have agreed to make from Sunderland
propose with leave of providence to be heard ^{brotherly} again the first sabbath
may and I hope to see you hear then and have opportunity to converse
you face to face for I long to see you I would let you know that
has been something considered about of after this winter at
wick an number of souls hopefully converted and sum under
can give my harty love to brother hinds and tel him I beg of him
to lay up any thing heavy against me because I did not com to see
when I was at middelborough last I think it was not for want
love to him or his dear flock but for want of time I have wrote
ter to you and another to brother hinds this winter but I have had no
even give my harty love to all my dear brethren and friends with you
beg your earnest prayers to god for me that I may be directed in
way of duty at all times I do no more but remain yourse in our
or Lord the most unworthy © Voth J. Den

Noah Alden
Letter Mar. 21
1766.

To Isaac Backes Mr
in Middleborough
with Care and

Speed
From edr. Alden
Mar. 21. 1766 Rec. Apr. 12.
J. B.

ingham July 20th: 1779 dear Brother I send these few lines with my
Love to you and yours hoping they will find you all in good health
through the tender mercy of God that I have longed to see you
donot know when I shall have opportunity for I hope I shall be
rived of the privilege of being at the association for our town have
en me as there delegate to go to Cambridge the first of September
the sole purpose of forming a new Constitution or form of government
for this State the wisest affair of a temporal nature I humbly conceive
Ever this State took in hand the true share of the matter is that
Especially necessary that in the first place there should be a bill of
rights ascertaining what are the natural just and religious rights of
people and a form of government predicated upon said bill of rights
perfectly agreeable thereto and I never know having after a while
be repugnant to said Bill of Rights but as I am sensible that
the delegates will not be all of my mind and the work is
great and my gifts small and I am inexperienced in a work of this
nature I pray you to favour me with your mind on the
subject Especially what are the rights of the people and how
that Bill of Rights ought to be worded I donot propose these things
to you for to burden your mind or to increase your labours
needlessly but because of the importance of the affair and the
share of your advice in this affair I hope you will favour me with
your mind if possible before I go to Cambridge and if I cannot be
at the association I hope my dear brethren will not forget me in
their prayers to God that I may be enabled to continue earnestly
and wisely for the liberties of the people in general
and for the liberties of the Lords people in particular
I rejoice at the comfortable news I have heard of the Lords
settling your dear flock last Spring I pray that the heavenly
showers of divine grace may be come universal we are at peace
among our selves through the mercy of the Lord begging your
prayers for me I remaine yours in the best of loves
Wm Allen

PS - please to give my hearty love to all friends with
you Especially my dear Relations as you have oppor
tunity

8. 23.
Aug. 11. 1779.
I send in a letter to him.
Wrote a letter of Right.
Eld. Adams sent
July 20. 1779.
Recd. Aug. 8.
8. 23.

To
The Reverend Mr.
Isaac Backus at Middleborough
with Care of prayer

Birmingham July 29th 1783 I rather of send these lines with
hasty love to you and your wife hoping they will find you
in health and my wife are in a comfortable measure of
health through the mercy of God the Dearest of my family
are poorly it is a general time of health excepting Consum
disorders which seem to be more prevalent than is common
at low time with the Church as to the Exercise of Religion
and time of general security among sinners to what it has been in
times past we have avoided assemblies from time to time
and a considerable serious attention to the word but of long to
see a more glorious Revival of Gods work amongst us than
ever I have yet seen in this place if it may please the Lord to
pour down his blessed spirit to the Conversion of sinners
and Reviving of the saints but of desire to bless the Lord
for that peace and unity that subsists amongst us I would
in form that I had a comfortable journey to the new
association and found things considerably agreed among
the Churches so as you 24 days rode about 330 miles and
and preached 13 times and agreed in to me with many
Christen friends and found my Children all in health
through the tender mercies of God and had my health
and hit to my journey a wonder full for a man of my years
I endeavored to collect and do here in close the best account
of the Estate of all the Churches of the Baptis
order in that part of the Land I met in my journey with
the sorrow full account of Elder Gros fall in to the sin of
fornication which was exceeding heavy to me I sat
at the same place with the agreed clause of the
settlement of the difficulties that so long subsisted at
Royalston by the accounts it was a wonder full day of Gods
Elder Jacobs and his brethren confessing there faults to the
agreed brethren the agreed brethren and sisters confessing
there faults to the Church all restored to the Church
except Solomon Good as I understand it time would
fill me to right all my mind to you so I am more
but Remain yours in the Best of loves Nathl Wood

I please to give my love to ~~you~~ to all my
Relation and in giving love with you

Elder Alden's lett.
July 29, 1783.

Recd at Boston
Aug. 21st 1783.
J. W.

Lingham July 20: 1784 I send these few lines with
my hearty regard to your dear Consort and family hoping
you will find you all in good health as through the tender
mercies of God they leave us except our daughter that has long
been still remaining weak and low it is a general time of
affliction through mercy but every secure time as to my spirit
ings of the blessed spirit of God and a grate want of divine quickening
of the saints I find that the Lord is good and his word of promise
or fails sum times when I am ready to faint sumport word will
come in to my mind and raise my sinking heart I find my
daily in contrast with aboy of death which makes me of ten
rather man that the who shall deliver me from the body of this
evil and sin that worst of evils which for this forty years
we have been longing for deliverance from but find my self daily
t with this evil but through the free and pure grace of God
in times have a recovery of the mark of the prize of the high
ing of God in Christ Jesus our Lord which animates my
t with fresh courage and assurance of holy for tedious hope
all tho we can but seldom have the pleasure of seeing one
ther that we have the privilege of daily meeting at the
me of Grace daily pray for one another's person and families
Charge and for the whole of God I cannot forget the
ce of my nativity for the Lord has done great things for
in that place and of hope will yet do greater things for
at the association and to Tarry a sabbat or two at midleborough
can get supplies for my flock I have your please to give
heartly love to all inquiring friends Especially my pore
ther Joseph in his weak and low estate O that the Lord
ate fill his soul with light and love and grant him ^{infinite} an
regeneration to and prepare him for his holy will and
measure with all concerned in and for him I am sure
t Remain yours in the best of loves Charles Doreen

I send in closed the eight Tickets I had of you for

No. 1. 1782. Letter
July 20. 1784.
Aug. 17.
9. 23.

To
Mr Isaac Backus in
Middleborough with Care
Spray

Birmingham January 8: 1789 Dear Sir these few lines in haste
have waited these are to let you know that Eliza Green
is at my house this morning on his way to middleborough
is taken sojourning with Amattuck disorder that that he is
not to prosecute his journey and I am concerned how he will
hope your people will not think hard of him tho they are
troubled I hope you are all in health my hearty love to you all
in the mercy of god and my family as comfortable
as possible but remain yours in gospel Bonds
Noah Adams

(Faint handwritten text, possibly a signature or address)

I conceive that the late

A Copy of a Letter from Brother Solomon Alden
in N. Bedford to me Isaac Packard in Bridgewater 1780

June 4th 1780
Brother I am glad to hear from you & know
your affairs, & my desire is that if God of all Praise
sanctify you wholly & if your spirit be preserved to his coming
and my Brother it is even if time of Jacobs trouble.
Antichrists Kingdom does rejoice & if Chr of God lies
desolate: it is a time of darkness. God is leaving his
children to fall so if there is but a Presence of God
amongst us: God is leaving sinners, & their backs seem
to be made strong: sinners are a binding to gether in
gurdels; God is doing it by if fallings of his saints. I see
abundant reason to cry to God in this time: but O my
learnings & warnings, I can scarcely get a publican song
within of wails. I cease not to pray for me & for Zion
that God may keep me in his ways & from the evil of a world.

Brother the if God has call you is too great for any creature
t God is able to hold you in his hand. — if Salvation was in our
own hands we should spile it. — I wish you all if blessing
of new Covenant. — So I remain your servant & Brother

Solomon Alden

account
utter in
ation
better all
Goal
going
support
him

my own
ly Entreat your
town to my
ours where our
See if something
Distressed situation
my husband
shut up by
rest
et you to
is soon as
ed & affection

Relaa Ashley

Sharnabas Ashley
New freetown

Noah Alden

Jan. 8. 1789

Dear Mother
in Middlebury with
Love & Duty

Northwich May 13 1750

Honored and Dear mother
having an opportunity to write to you
now in your grate absence I do joyfully
impart to you that thro' the
goodness of God we are in a usual state
of health and knowing that it would
be very acceptable to you to hear from
your children especially at so grate a
distance from them tho' I hope it is
not for a long time I long to hear what
improvement the women gives you concerning
your craft and whether you are settled in
living there and how her means operate
upon it I pray to send me word the first
opportunity I heard from Windham last
Friday After White Child is much better then
when you left home I hear they desire to
set out for new haven this weeke no news
from Windham to acquaint you with we hear
from hartford concerning our Election the
Governor & Deputy Governor are the same
that were last year & put in in the
same manner I hope to give my Duty to
Father my regards to Cuzen Hannah
this from your most Loving & Dutyfull
Child Eunice Backus

MS
MS
A. D. & B. Backus
Letter May 13. 1750.

Portsmouth, N. H. 17 Feb. 1804.

Ther. vni

I have taken considerable
pain to collect a genealogical list of the
descendants of John Alden who came
to this country ⁱⁿ 1620. I have succeeded
better than I had reason to expect
in such an undertaking. The business
however is not yet complete. My object
is not only to complete such a list;
but, where, in my power, to collect
biographical anecdotes and sketches.
As to some of the name a few things
in this way may be obtained, which
if not interesting to the public, yet
^{will be} gratifying to those of the name.

I conceive that the late
 rev. Noah Alden was a character
 worthy of some particular account.
 I know of no one who was better ac-
 quainted with him than you and
 who at the same time, all things

And we are as yet very much engaged
with my self would earnestly Entreat your
Self to come up to New Free town to my
House near the meeting house where our
Selves lately preached & to see if something
cant possibly be done in our Distressed Situation
The same party has since my husbands
Confinement taken great advantages by
striking of us in our property
And I would earnestly Entreat you to
Comply with this Request as soon as
possible from your Distressed & affectionate
Sister

Rev. Bacton
Middleborough

Relax Ashley
Life to Barnabas Ashley
of S. Newfreetown

Noah Alden
Jan. 8. 1789

Dear Mother
in much love with
Love of pray

Northwich May 13 1750

Honored and dear mother
having an opportunity to write to you
now in your grate I do so joyfully
imparting to you that thro' the
goodness of God we are in a usual state
of health and knowing that it would
be very acceptable to you to hear from
your children especially at so grate a
distance from them the I hope it is
not for a long time I long to hear what
improvement the women gives you concerning
your craft and whether you are settled in
Living there and how her means operate
upon it I pray to send me word the first
opportunity I heard from Windham last
Friday after white chile is much better then
when you left home I hear they desire to
set out for new haven this weeke no news
from Windham to acquaint you with we hear
from hartford concerning our Election the
Governor & Deputy goones are the same
that were last year & put in in the
same manner Please to give my Duty to
father my regards to Cuzen Hannah
this from your most Loving & Duttyfull
Child Eunice Barker

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Portsmouth, N. H. 17 Feb. 1804.

Rev. Sir,

I have taken considerable pains to collect a genealogical list of the descendants of John Alden who came to this country ⁱⁿ 1620. I have succeeded better than I had reason to expect in such an undertaking. The business however is not yet complete. My object is not only to complete such a list, but, where, in my power, to collect biographical anecdotes and sketches. As to some of the name a few things in this way may be obtained, which if not interesting to the public, yet ^{will be} gratifying to those of the name.

I conceive that the late rev. Noah Alden was a character ^{account} worthy of some particular account. ^{relation} I know of no one who ^{was} better acquainted with him than you and who at the same time, all things ^{going} ^{support} ^{him}

~~and we are in a very poor situation~~
with my self would earnestly entreat your self to come up to New Free-town to my house near the meeting house where our selves lately preached to to see if something ^{can} possibly be done in our distressed situation. The same party has since my husband's confinement taken great advantages by stripping of us in our property. And I would earnestly entreat you to comply with this request as soon as possible from your distressed & affectionate sister

Dev. Backus
Middleborough

Relaa Ashley
Wife to Barnabas Ashley
of S. New Free-town

considered, can better give me such
a biographical memoir as I want.
I am induced to address you on
this subject from another considera-
tion. I perceive by looking into the His-
torical Collection that you have a taste
for historical investigation and a wil-
lingness to contribute from your fund.

I hope, sir, you will excuse
the liberty I have taken in mak-
ing this application. Will you be so
good as to write for my use such
a biographical memoir as I want
of the rev. Noah Alden. I wish not for
a very long account but for a con-
cise and sufficiently minute ac-
count of him as a man, a Christian
and a ~~preacher~~ ^{preacher} - His success in the
ministerial labor and as many his-
torical circumstances relative to him
as may be important and as you
can conveniently communicate to me
will be thankfully received. If my life

Timothy Allen
Feb. 17. 1804.
Rec. Mar. 12. —
2. 13.

A. S. and Mar. 17. 1804.

Paid

The Miss. Anne Backus

Middlebury

New Jernston
Mass.

MS

MS

First Eunice sent this from New York by me
to her mother & I will send it to her
at New York. But the
A Don & Backus
Letter, May 13. 1750.

My health ~~is~~ and knowing that it would
be very acceptable to you to hear from
your children especially at so great a
distance from them the I hope it is
not for a long time I long to hear what
improvement the women gives you concerning
your craft and whether you are settled in
living there and how her means operate
upon it I ^{you} send me word the first
opportunity — I heard from Windham last
Friday After white Child is much better then
when you left home I hear they desire to
set out for new haven this weeke no news
from Windham to a quait you with we hear
from hartford concerning our Election the
Governor & Deputy Governor are the same
that were last year I put in in the
same manner I hope to give my Duty to
Father my regards to Cuzen Hannah
this from your most Loving & Duttyfull
Child
Eunice Backus

Dear Sir

I am under Great Distress & Trouble on account
of Abuses on the Heyt of some of our Brethren
by reason of our being in a broken, Scituation
my husband is now confined in Farniton Goal
on account of some maliciously Despoing
persons who has sworn falsely for to support
the complaint they have made against him
And as we are in Gospel bonds my husband
with my self would Earnestly Entreat your
self to come up to New Freetown to my
house near to the meeting house where our
Selves lately preached to to see if something
cant possibly be done in our Distressed Scituation
The same party has since my husbands
Confinement taken great advantages by
striking of us in our property
And I would Earnestly Entreat you to
comply with this request as soon as
possible from your Distressed & affectioned
Sister

Rev Packus
Middleborough

Relaa A Wley
Wife to Barnabas Ashley
of N. Newfreetown

Dear Father Backus.

I am coming your way, & therefore wish
to have some Meetings appointed for me.
Wednesday evening next, I am to preach at
Taunton — Thursday I wish to preach at
Middleboro'; but as I do not know how the
churches in your Town lie, I therefore leave
for you to appoint, I want to preach once
at Elder Hinds's, once at Elder Sam. Nelson's
once with you — the first of these Meet-
ings must be at 1^o Clock — the 2^d — & after-
wards at 8^o Clock — & the 3^d with you, at 8^o Clock.
Friday 1^o Clock at Bridgewater Br. Tripp's —
& after 4 — at Bridgewater, & 8^o Clock at
Braintree Br. Briggs's — please to give
these Meetings must in my favor.
Newport July 2, 1795. I remain Yours
affect. friend

John Atplund

P.S. I have preached here, in all the Bapt-
tists & Congregational Meetings — I intend
next Lord's day to preach twice at Elder Thurstons
in the evening at Elder Patten's —

Eden

Isaac Backus

Middleboro

Massachusetts

in paper July 9.

He came here

John Adams.
July 2. 1795.
Rec. July 20.
G.D.

Beloved Brother & Faithful Minister of Christ
Wishing you Grace Mercy And peace from our God
and father and from our Lord and Glorious Jesus
Christ to be ^{whom} glory in the Churches. Having this
Opportunity I in Behalf of the Church ^{of Christ} in Winton
Wright this to Inform you that we still remain
as a flock without a Shepherd though we are
sometimes favoured with the Improvement of the
Neighbouring Ministers of Christ And now we
earnestly request And humbly Invite you to Come
and ^{and} ~~visit~~ us also with your Improvement
on one Lords Day a while hence When God may
open the way this from your Most Unworthy Brother
(Christ.) Maughton June ^{the} 15th of 1721
For mee Caleb Thornton

For S. Dor. Isaac : Norton Ch^h. rect^r.
June 15. 1781
Vacant pasture of the
Church in Middelburg Recd. June 19.

J. V.

S. M.

Recd. June 19.

Recd. Atty. Gen.
June 15. 1781

Westerly Septem^r 23 Day 1753.

My Covenant Brethren I have not heard anything from you to any
Purpos. Since I saw you and Desire to hear of your spiritual Conque^{sts}
and how the Church stands to you) and you to the flock committed to
you for ~~off~~ Do Behold Great Searchings of heart in the Churches and
almost every Church Shaken, and that that is to be Removed Will Now
be Taken away &c. - Dear Brethren Take Courage be not Dismayed at
the face of your Enemies, Read the Cause of your God Boldly Take
care of Great Swelling Words that Chap in your Soft Wounded you
and me) be gentle &c. (Dear Brethren it has been as great a Day
of God's Power amongst us and yet Remain) as ever I said) Souls
are coming into the Kingdom and almost every Day We Meet
there are more or less Striving to find the Dore of the Church &c.

Dear Brethren I have lately written against Pain and Steuens
for their Conduct Towards you and the Rest of the Baptist Brethren) and We
Met Last Week and they as yet refuse all Shifts to keep the Matter from
coming to Tryall and I believe if they can by almost any Shifts Keep
it off it will never be Brought to Tryall, But o Dear Brethren My heart
aches and my Eyes Run Down With Tears to see what Dissimulation is
used by the Elders in Israel that should be Patterns of Plainness &c.
and to see what underhanded Ways is Taken to Make Believers Baptism
appear odious and the Subjects of it appear Ridiculous But I spare them
for they are the Lords anointed though all Men be as Grass &c.

Let me hear from you as soon as you can by Letter and if you have any
Copy you Think I need in this Matter Send them - Pray for Zion
Prosperity Salute your Church in My Name With Peace be to them and
Peace be to their helpers amen

From yours But not My own Stephen Babcock

Middleborough
this I rec. Oct. 13.
1753.

J. Backus

To
Jacob Burkus
Esq.

Widdowborough
Mass.

Stephen Babcock
Pitts., Sept. 23.
1958

From History -

Sept. 1958

Dear Brother

Abenwick, Janry 26 1764

I embrace this opportunity (as I have
ben longe waiting for one) to informe you of the state
of affairs with us Brother Simon. is Exlream. weak. & how
it is not likely that he will continue long as to his mind
he seems not to be altogether so much burthened as he
has some time been. God seems to be reviving his work
amongst his people here sinners are under conviction &
some hopefully converted & saints revived Brother John
seems to give a clear account of a saving change
Ozias Backus Departed this life yesterday in the full
assurance of Faith. Andrew Love Died last
week very suddenly being confined to his house but
one day before his death. we learn by your letters
you purpose to be up next month. I should be glad
you would com as saones may bee for its very doubtful
whether Brother Simon, will continue thro the month
ask that we might all be enabled to serve God
& our Generation by his ^{will} & be prepared for all
changes in life & for a happy immortality
thro Christ our savior & mighty Redeemer

Throm yours in near Bonds

Oziah Backus

Dear Brother

Abenwick Feby 22 1764

I sit down to let you know I have not quite
forgot you was in hopes to have had the satisfaction of seeing you
last fall at Abenwick. but was disappointed I was not without
thoughts to have made you a visit last fall but was prevented
by a variety of Avocations our daughter Woodbridge with her
family set out for Mashingham ^{last fall} & Clara is gone down with her
sister Oziah. set out for that country the beginning of Decr. he talks
some of going down as far as new Orlands James came home from
the Ohio in Novn after having ben gone about 20 months
he is about setting out for that country again in about 2 or 3
weeks sister Springwell has married of her two old daughters
this winter & Agla Backus was married about a fortnight past
our family is with as great a prospect I have been confined part
of the winter but am much better at present I have not altogether
given up the idea of paying you a visit but when I know not how soon I shall
in this troublesome world or how soon we see or hear from each other hope
we shall not lose that brotherly love & affection which we ought to have
am yours &c Oziah Backus

Silas Short
Foot wheat 0:16:0

A Letter wrote to
Grace Barker Janry 26
1764

28.

Copy Letter from
Reverend Grace Barker
Feb 22 1790

51.

Give if you could for the balance of
the above account by the bearer your very much
Obliged your very humble Servant
Grace Barker

North Aug 21 1785

For John Barker to pay
1787
to 15:0

Norwich 21 May 1774

Dear Sir I received your favor of the
28th April last with a Quashy Iron
Wor and by your Long Delay have
bought a Turkey Lee for this come to hand
but have taken it of Mr Dean all but
the flat Irons them have sent back and
for it advised with your brother Elijah
Packers about grinding them and found
that the cost of grinding would make them
so Dear that the owner would sell the
most of the ware was not the sort that
I desired you to send to me but will
make the best of Iron of it from send to
harris of York and twenty nine bushels
of Rye forty five shillings in Cash
which amounts to £13² 2⁶ which is the
Balance for the Iron ware in Care
you Cant sell it for that sum I will
pay what it falls short in that sum your

Most Humble Servt
Nathl Packers

M ^r Isaac Packers to Nathl Packers	£4 ¹⁶ 8
to 29 bushels Rye at 3/4	6 ¹¹ 0
to 2 barrels Rye	2 ¹¹ 5 ¹⁰
to Cash returned Capt Deane	19 ¹¹ 6
to 11 sett of flat sent back	£11 ¹¹ 0

6th May 19¹¹ 3¹¹ 0 Iron ware 14¹¹ 0 on 0

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a letter or a list of items.]

Capt. Nath. Barker
Letter, May 26, 1874

Recd. May 26.

J. B.

Copy Letters
Revenue Year Barker

[Faint handwritten text in the middle section, possibly a list or a continuation of the letter.]

[Faint handwritten text at the bottom of the page.]

In Expectance of a Poor Illiterate Woman Born of a Very
Poor family and brought up to no Learning at all Not so
much as to Read I Lived in Little Hezekiah and I Heard of
a wonderful work of God in Jericho How many was converted
Which caused me to Reflect on a Past Life Which Terrified
me much one Knight I Dreamed the Devil Was Come
for me I thought he Come in a flash of fire Which
struck Me Down to Hell and in Great Torment then I
lamented my Condition How I Had Neglected my Salvation
Now the Day was over thus in my Torment I awoke in Great
Surprise and Told my Husband Who Told me Not to Regard it
that Dreams Was Nothing But my Guilty Conscience terrified
me so that I Could Have No Rest Day Nor Night my Sins
appeared Very Horrible till I thought I Could Not Live
long under such Horrow one Day I Went to Meeting at
Jericho and thought in my mind that I Would Never Return
till I Had found some Relief for so I Could not Live and
Went and Heard the Number of fifteen tell the Dealing of
God to them and they Would Tell my heart only they Had found
Deliverance and I had Not and that made me to think there
was no mercy for me I was an undone Creature my Sins appeared
more Horrible and there was a Lecture that Evening and I Went
to Hear it and the Minister Preached Very Powerful and Instead
of yielding me any Relief it added to my Torment I thought I
Had one more Sermon to account with God for unless I obtained
pardon through Jesus Christ Which I thought was Not for me
I had Been such a Great Sinner my Load Was so heavy that I
thought I Could Not Bear under such Distress I Called my Sister
at the meeting and Told Her I felt so that it Seemed as tho
I Could Not Live She made me But Little answer and Meeting
being broke up I Went to a House to Lodge that Knight and the
people a talking of Religion I was no Company for them I felt
like a Lonesome monument of Gods Displeasure I got But a very
little Sleep that Night Next morning I Set out to go
home and these Words Would be upshored into my Mind Turn O
over Why Will ye Die and I thought I Had done all that I
could and there was no Mercy for me and these Thoughts Come
to my Mind you Have Not Given up your Heart to God then
and my whole Heart to be a Sink of Sin and that I had Proved
my Life long at Enmity against a Just and a Holy God and that
God was angry with the Wicked Every Day and I saw my self

Such a Creature that I Wondered that God Would suffer me to walk
on his foot stool I Wondered that the Earth Did Not open and
Swallow me up as I Passed along I Was afraid that Every Tree I Pass'd
by Would fall on me and Dash me in Pieces and I Would Run to
get Clear of one and the fear of another Would Take me Still these
Words Would follow me I urn a sinner Why Will ye Dye at Length
I Was Brought to View the Justice of God ^{and} that I Was Justly Condemn'd
Rebbel and ~~and~~ Had Been all my Life Long Provoking God to anger
and Now I Was about to Receive the Just Reward of my Deeds and God
Plead only guilty Before God on Which Consideration I Was Brought
to yield my self in to the Hands of God With this Repeated Cry my
Lord mercy if Possible though I Could See No Way that God Could
Be Just and Show Mercy to such a Preacher I Was While I Was at it
Were a sinking With these Malencholy thoughts these Words Ware
usherd in to my mind in a Remariable manner ye Believe in God
Believe also in me these Words Seem'd ^{to be} to Have some Glimpses of
Hope the Heft of my Burden Seem'd to be Taken away and I felt
Calm and Peaceable But Could Not Tell What it might Be I thought
that If I Was Converted that I Should See Christ and I Would Go out
in the Evening and Look in the firmament Expecting to See
Christ and then these Words Was usherd in to my mind Peace to the
Children of God and Peace to thy soul then I Went in and Got the
Bible for my Husband to try to Learn me to Read and I Could Spell
a Little and I Tryed to Read and I thought that the Lord assist
me in Reading and I said Husband it seems to me the Lord assist
me in Reading I Never Could Read so Before I had No Sooner Spoke
But my soul Was fill'd With Divine Love yea more than full
I thought there Was Enough for all the World to swim away
in to them Blissful shores of Eternal Day thus my Tongue ~~broke~~
out in Raptures of Praise Crying glory glory to God in the
Highest for He Hath Redem'd my soul from the Horrible Pit
I thought I Wanted to tell all the World of the fulness there
Was in christ ~~and~~ soon after one of the Elder Roggers of Church
Came to Visit me and told Him what God Had done for my soul
and He asked me wheather there had No thing appeared to one as
Beauty to glorify God in that had done so great a Work for me
I told him that I thought it my Beauty to Worn my Neighbors
and Invite them to Love Christ he asked me wheather I had No
teaching to Baptize I told Him I Could Not Read only spell and
He took the Bible and Turned Down a Number of Pages and told
me to meditate on them and I Did and in the Mean time I
Dreamed that God Was angry With me Be Cause I Was Not
Baptised ^{when I was it appeared to me that I ought to have been Baptised} to follow the Examples that Christ Hath Left for
His Chosen flock to follow thus much Mr Elizabeth Bailey

24.

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Gordon & Lonsdale & Co. agents for the British

Recd. 1785.
Aug. 21. 9. 13.

Wm. Bradley's
expenditure.

Canada June 25th 1787

Honored and much esteemed Sir

I have long waited an opportunity to write to you, to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 23rd of Jan: Vlt. and also the Price you ^{wrote} upon the atonement, which not long after I sent to Mr. Flebbard and desired him to enquire into the cost of Printing (as he lived nearer the press than I did) I had his advice To send it back as he thought the cost of paper and the scarcity of cash were such that it would be impracticable to get it printed. I have conversed with a number of other Friends who wish to have it printed and would subscribe towards it But I conclude it would be a long Time before I could get enough subscribed to defray the whole Expence — if it should be printed in your parts I believe a considerable number of books would be purchased in these parts — I am sorry to send it back but see no way to do better —

The matter of Atonement (rather than the extent of it) has been the Topic of conversation very generally in these parts for a Long time viz whether The Atonement consisted in Righteousness or Sufferings, but these things have had a tendency to stir up perverse disputing about words and things rather than to Godly Satisfying —

I think the Scriptures represent Christ as
A Lamb slain from the foundation of
The World But it seems as if Mr. Thome
and some others consider them as merely
accidental and not necessary — If there was
not a suspension, of the sensible enjoyment of
The Divine favour, in no part of Christ's
Sufferings, then surely, they were much less
than we have generally conceived. —

Another idea which many are levelling
Against is that any should think that God has
any Love or Pity towards sinners that should
Have any connection with other causes that
Moved him to send his Son into the World
Which to me is treated very unskillfully
and to the prejudice of the Gospel —

I shew your Letter to Mr. Burroughs
He was surprised that you had not got
his answer which he says he sent imme-
diately by the hand of a Middleborough
Scholar —

Dear V. I still believe that Lions
King reigns and that He has cause
to rejoice that none can controul
him I think some light is break-
ing

ing forth upon the Church of God —

I believe there is a number that
are fighting for the abominations of
the Times and are praying for Zi-
on's Deliverance — The Reaver

is waiting as I should remark upon
Many other things — I hear of God's

Work in some parts of the Land some
Individuals are under deep concern among
us — but I must hasten to a close & th-

Hoping that that God which Redeem
ed your Soul will ever keep you
where you may oppose Satan
and all his Doctrines and Lies

— I ask an interest in your Pray-
ers and subscribe myself your
unworthy Brother in Tribulation

Thos. Baldwin

Edw. J. Packmus

Proctor June 24. 1805

Rev. Dear Brother

Yours of the 6th of Nov. & of the 16th of Jan^r -
came safe to hand, was much gratified in hear-
ing of the good work of God among your people
Carver &c. Blessings be God the work still contin-

Canada Sept. 3rd 1787

My dear Sir
Received yours of July 9th have had no opportu-

nity to write since till the present moment which I glad-
ly embrace Nothing very special amongst us at present with
respect to Religion at least no general awakening there.
Is two of a City & one of a family taken and brought to
Lion — There is a measure of Peace in our churches
Altho there is some bickering respecting these new Ideas on the
Movement they were treated upon some in our Association
as you doubtless will see by our Minutes and may be fur-
ther informed by Eld^r Fletcher who was present and heard
the debate — I have made what inquiry I could with con-
venience respecting your books about three Dozen is among
us has been spoke for but I rather think I could sell for you
twice that number what I mention first the Money will be
ready on receipt of the Books

I hear that there is a glorious work of reformation
in many Towns in Connecticut particularly in Stonington
Groton & London & Lyme. We also hear that the Savages
near the Ohio are submitting to the Authority of Truth
Many minds are perplexed in these parts respecting
the Ground of Christian Fellowship. Those that propose
Communion with all Christians plead for their practice shipp
from N. 7. I wish your thoughts on that passage — Our As-
sociation have requested me to write upon the Subject against
our next Meeting — I hope to hear from you over

Baldwin's Letter.
June 23. 1784

Recd July 4.
Sister 13.

Anna Beckwith

Worcester

Canaan Sept. 3rd 1787

My dear Sir
Received Yours of July 9th have had no opportunity to write since till the present moment which I gladly embrace Nothing very special among us at present with respect to Religion at least no general awakening there Is two of a City & one of a family taken and brought to Zion — There is a measure of Peace in our churches Altho there is some trials respecting these new Ideas on the Abolishment they were treated upon some in our Association as you doubtless will see by our Minutes and may be further informed by Eld^r Fletcher who was present and heard the debate — I have made what inquiries I could with convenience respecting your books about three Dozen is a number that has been spoke for but I rather think I could sell for you twice that number what I mention first the Money will be ready on receipt of the books

I hear that there is a glorious work of reformation in many Towns in Connecticut particularly in Stonington Groton & London & Lyme. We also hear that the Savages

near the Ohio are submitting to the Authority of Truth — Many minds are perplexed in these parts respecting the Ground of Christian Fellowship. Those that propose Communion with all Christians plead for their practice chiefly from 1st 7. I wish your thoughts on that passage — Our Association have requested me to write upon the Subject against our next Meeting — I hope to hear from you very

Long my unfeigned Desires are to the Head of the Church that
This innocent Cause may prosper and prevail and hope you
May be continued in your usefulness for a great while
To come and that you may lean your Head on Jesus
Breast and bring forth much fruit in Old age —
I have been happy in an acquaintance with you, a remem-
-brance in your prayers will be ~~remind~~ considered as an
Additional Satisfaction — please to remember me to your
Dear consort and permit me to subscribe myself your

Brother in Tribulation Thos Baldwin

Edw Isaac Mackus

Boston June 24. 1805

Rev. Dear Brother

Yours of the 6th of Nov.^r & of the 16th of Jan^r -
came safe to hand, was much gratified in hear-
ing of the good work of God among your people
Carver &c. Bless'd be God the work still contin-
ues with us. I think I have baptized 20 since
the Association have a n^o of Candidates waiting
for an opportunity. Several have lately been
brought in a judgment of charity to rejoice in the
truth. I think however, the Spirit of conviction
is considerably abated, altho' our Lord's day eve-
ing lectures are still crowded and solemn. -
I forwarded your letter on to M^r Paul, but
he was then going a journey into (N.H.) he
has not yet returned.

A Church has been gathered at Salem
consisting of about 20 members; and on
the 9th instant B^r L. Peck was ordained
their pastor. D^r Stillman preached, and our
late worthy friend D^r Smith gave the charge.
the

New. Isaac Backus

Middleboro

Thomas Baldwin
Jan. 24. 1805.
Recd. Feb. 2. 1805.

Boston Oct. 15 1801.

My dear Sir

While Mr. Peak is lacking his
horse I take advantage of opportunity
to write a few lines to you. Hope
these may find you well, & enjoying
the light of God's countenance, which
is better than life.

You may have seen in our
papers the Ordination of Mr.
Abraham Cummings, on the
9th inst. We have also a young
Ministering brother with us from Eng-
land. Mr. Thomas Waterman he
is 27 years old a single man of very
handsome talents & education. He

brings the most unexceptionable
recommendations. He was Ordained in
the City of London about 5 years
ago, ~~a~~ Pastor of an Independent
Church, and about 2 years since
he embraced Gospel baptism, and
of course gave up his charge.

He has preached 3 times in our
Church here to universal satisfaction.
I hope God has sent him among
us for good.

I have heard from Sutton
since our Sep^r, and learn
that it was blessed, both to
the quickening of the brethren,
and to the awakening of some

others. It is said that there is
a favourable appearance of a good
work among them.

We hear nothing of any Reg-
isters.! D^r Meppon baptized Mr.
Waterman, and is one of the sign-
ers to his recommendation.

Dear Sir, wishing every one
blessing to attend you and yours,
and if God w^d. yet continue and
make you a blessing to his Church
and people, is Sir, the prayer
of the your unworthy friend
and brother Tho. Waterman

Edw. Parker

Thomas Hudson

Oct. 15. 1861

Ad. Oct. 16 -

873.

Rev. Isaac Backus

Philadels.

Rev. Mr. Peak.

H. C.

Dear and very Dear Brother I am happy to hear
from you once more in Time though several
years has not round since I saw you yet the
length of Time nor the distance of Miles has
not weaned my affections from you for many
waters cannot quench Love neither can the floods
drown it I have had the happiness two or three
times of reading some small pieces with
Brother Backus name to them gave me
some Satisfaction of mind but having the
opportunity of hearing of you by Brother Brame
I gladly Embrace the same opportunity to direct a few
Lines Dear and very Respectable Brother I am yet in
the Land of the living but through many afflictions am
weary in Body I have nothing Comforting to write to
you there seems to be but small in gatherings in to the
fold of Jesus in our quarters yet Praise God there are a
few names in Leeds that have not defiled their garments
Brother I long to see you but never Expect to give my
Longing satisfied Till we shall meet in our
Fathers Courts above where Parting will be no
more Dear Brother Fairwell I Remain yours to
serve in the Bonds of the Gospel of Christ till death
December the 13th 1796

Joshua Barnes

John Barnes,
Dec. 13. 1796.
Dec. June 23. 97.
9. 93.

Answered July 7. 1797.

To
Elihu Isaac (Barnes)
quaker of a Church Middlebury
Vt
For papers of Brother
Barnes

January 30th 1797 North Carolina Pitt County

Reverent and Very Dear Brother I Gladly Embrace a nother opportunity of Emparting by Letter to you some of ^{my} Ardent wishes for your Temporal and Eternal Welfare though all most a Stranger by name yet believe me I am not playing the hypocrit when I say I love you in the Bonds of the gospel of Christ from the first Moments I heard the precious truths drop from your Lips with the Comforts I find in reading some of your writings Since with a few Remembrances of you by Letter dated July 7th 1797 and as many waters cannot quench Love neither the floods drown it the many years absence and the number of miles which lieth betwixt hath not cooled my Affections to you dear Father I have no Expectation of Ever seeing you in time to gain yet let us endeavour to hold out and hold on to True Salvation in the name of Jesus a few days more not withstanding the many afflictive and Cross like providences we may have to Encounter in these dreary times through this unfriendly world and are long we shall meet in the Worlds of light above not as in the Embrases of each other but in the embrases of King Jesus where absence nomore will be a grief hypocrites no more Reproach Devils nomore shall tempt false doctrines nomore shall rage but Lion shall shine in all the glory of the Bridgroom to all Eternity I remain your very loving though very unworth Brother in the Gospel of Jesus Christ Joshua Barnes

To
Elder Isaac
Backus Newengland
Pufavour Brother
Brame

✓

873.
Recd July 8.
Jan. 30. 1799
Jesse Barnes,

Answered July 9. 1799.



Boston Sep^r 25. 1805

Dear Brother,

Day before yesterday I called at the Post office for a letter, and while looking for that they found the inclosed. I thought it best to send it immediately to you. I hope you have received the sheet and the Money. No letter of any description has ever come to my knowledge from Mr. Watkins before this. Nor can I give the least information in the business. If you have not received the letter (which I fear you have not) It has undoubtedly been destroyed in some of the Post offices.

You will be kind enough to write to Mr. Watkins and let him know how the matter stands.

I left your letter by Canterbury Meeting house. Things are quite agreeable at Lebanon among the brethren & Society, but they have many adversaries. The laws of Connecticut make two thirds necessary to remove a meeting-house. A vote was obtained 70 odd to 30 odd making the majority required by Law. Notwithstanding these people in the North part of the parish were prosecuted for a riot, & fined to the utmost extent of the law. The day after the Ch^h was constituted, the same persons were arrested for a riot (it being for y^e second day they were putting down the old M. H.) If they carry this point they mean to take y^e for the 3^d &c. Yours aff^{ly}. G. Baldwin

Thomas Watson

Sept. 25. 1805

Recd. Sept. 26

S. B.

Recd. Sep. 26.

T. B. Aldwin

Sept. 23. 1805

Answered Oct 1805

For Day
Mr. Bunting

Wadsworth

For Isaac Bunting

Southampton Co. Virginia, Jan'y 27th 1797.

Dr. Bro.

As an Opportunity offers, by the Hand of Mr. Frame, of addressing a few lines to you, I gladly embrace it; and tho' our Acquaintance has been but slight, I hope you will receive them, as a Memorial from Brother Love.

We are informed by the "Lisp of Inspiration," That cold Water is the thirsty Soul, so is good News from a far Country. And glad, very glad should I be, could I favour you with such Intelligence. But the Reverse is true; for from twenty five years Experience, I think I never knew altogether so dull a Time, within the Circle of my Acquaintance.

Additions to the Church are very inconsiderable, in comparison of Diminutions, by Death, and otherwise. It does appear as tho' the master Builder, intended to take down, and entirely dissolve his House below. He has of late, often led me to enquire into the Cause; and sometimes brought this Scripture to my Mind: "The time is come, that Judgment must begin at the House of God. Ye. Whether it will apply to our Times I will not determine."

We have for several years past, and do at this Time, Experience great Scarcity of Grain &c. in the lower Parts of Virginia, & N. Carolina, owing to two, or three, unfavourable seasons, that have succeeded each other; and am confident great sufferings will be felt this Year, if we cannot get supplied from other Parts.

We keep struggling against "petititious" Impositions; but have not yet obtained the Sale of the Public Lands &c.; but the business was put in such a Train, last Assembly, that it is more than probable, it will be effected the next Session. — As I hardly expect, another Interview with you in Time, Letters would be very acceptable.

I am with every sentiment of Esteem, &c. &c. to the best friends

David Harrow.

Washington 27 June 1997

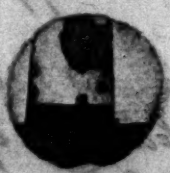
Mr. Do.

I am extremely pleased to hear of your success in your efforts to secure the release of the prisoners of war. I hope you will receive them as a reward of your efforts.

We are informed by the staff of the Department of Defense that the release of the prisoners of war is a top priority. We are doing our best to ensure that they are released as soon as possible.

Jan. 27. 1997.
June 23.

Angus July 10. 1997.



Washington

Lyons

June 23

Dear Mr. Do.

I am very pleased to hear of your success in your efforts to secure the release of the prisoners of war. I hope you will receive them as a reward of your efforts.

for Sale

Come

Boston May 27 1794

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you that "the bloody tent-ent" of Roger Williams is now found & you may have it after the middle of June by returning the other book and sending for this by some trusty person. The reason of my mentioning the middle of June is, an order of the society that all the books shall be in their places once in the year; that there may be a particular examination of them — however as to the book which you now have you need not be at the trouble of sending it, till it is convenient for you to send for Williams's; I can excuse it on account of your distance. —

I am Sir, respectfully your friend &
Brother, *Free Belknap*

The Rev^d
Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Dr. Belknap's letter,
May 24. 1794.
Recd. June 15.
8. 23.

Left August in the y^e 1762
Concerning Mr. Jones & Conduct he &
I went out to the barn to Milking in
the feald by the barn & he began to
Talk Concerning his Living while he
lived to Deacon Benson & he said that
he beleved that ~~he~~ Did not now how he
suffered for food he when I went out to
Greach or Come home I had nothing to
Drink or hearins to Eat for the Milk
would Stand in the Butteray & Sour when
My Childeren was Obliged to go to
Bede without there Suppers for it
and that he said he that the woman
was without Nateral affections
Also he said that if he went out & got
some Money that Deacon Benson Tem
Never Contented till he Got it away
from him

Also when the Contribution Money
was feathered for him to ~~pay~~ ~~that~~
he said after Supper that Deacon
Benson Come in to the Roome & said
we will Look over the Contribution
Money & he Got Down & Gived the Me
quantity of about four Dollars & I
told it over & I told him that I
heard ~~somebody~~ say that there was six
Dollers & then Deacon Benson Put
his hand in his Pocket & Pulld out the
Remaner to make it up six Dollars
further our Boye that Lived with
Deacon Benson the Caridy that the
Boye Received when he Lived there was
to that Degree that he is Perued of
his senses to that Degree that I am a
fraid that he will never will have
his senses again
further more one or both of them Told
me that they Threatned to Lock up the
Boye of the Buttery if he Did not forbear
from in there to Git Peticks

I further More he Made it his Practice
Since after time to hit me alone
To Inform Me against Deacon Benson
I further More one Pursick for time
when he had ben a Talking agas
nst Deacon Benson he told me that
he was Sheard ~~to~~ to think of what
he had ben Talking about & I
asked him why he was Sheard & he
sade to think of what he had ~~ben~~
a talking about I sade to him that
You Neednot be Sheard for if I Sho
ld tell if it I see that it will
brak us ull up

I another thing he told me & my wife
that Deacon Benson ^{sd} Meet Deacon
Sharmon & he sent me a Doler by
him & Sum time after this Doler
was sent by Deacon Benson ~~to~~
he sade that he went up to Shear
mons & Mr. Jones sade that he blessed
that Deacon ^{Benson} Thort that Edward
Shearmen asked him wether he had
Reeived a Doler which they he set
by him & when I Come home
he Brought out the Doler

I a nother thing about a Doler
Mr. Jones asked me wether I did
not Remember that George Shaw
sent a Doler by ~~me~~ ^{you} to Give me one
half & the other half to Goards Baying
for the Land & I told him yes & I
~~told him~~ he sade when I see you
Give him the half Doler & I sade
Iearneel half Doller but He
sade that he had the ^{half} Doller fro

This is to the Rest of My
Remembrance a Short account of
what he told me Consider Benson

Dr. J. S. P. 8. 11.

San. Vigor
elle Aug 20. 1442.

X + I beg an Interst in your prayers — I do not expect my days here will be long — pray that I may begin for glory — I am the last among all the servants in the house — pray that I may not cast my life into loss — farewell —
your brother in many afflictions — Samuel Bispham

pray send my love by the bearer if you have got it and if I have not sent money enough I will endeavor to send it the first opportunity —

Beloved brother in Christ I have been Verry Desirous Ever Since I
saw you here - to have a Correspondance with you by way of
writing if I may be counted worthy - and now having an opportu-
nity I begin - Determining to Embrace Every Convenient Season if I am
not too Burdened - for I found you to say so much the same things as I
say that I have been present with you in Spirit ^{many times} Hence our Co-
munion were to gether - moreover I want to hear of the affairs of
which you can Inform me a great Deal about if you can write of
them - also I can Inform you something of how things go among us
in the little plantations that Jesus has bound about in this wilder-
ness - I am Brother in my usual State of Bodily health - altho
I saw you I have been seemingly bordering on the Eternal
Day by reason of my Inward weakness - but I think I never enjoyed
of god in my Life that at that time - the nearer I seem'd to
ward home the more I Long'd to be there - I Liv'd several Days
and Deal Expecting my Lord to knock soon at my Door - and I
say I was unwilling to ^{hear} the sound - I felt my Soul Engag'd to
Every thing ready - but alas now it seems as if I had a
while to stand out in the Storms - for it seem now as if it
was not so ripe and fit to be gathered in as I Hoped I was then
I find myself Verry prone when I git on to the moun't to say it is good for

me to be here - but my father thinks it best not to keep me there
long at a time but down I must go - and he will be gone -
I think I never had for so long a time so still and stable appear-
ance. I have had very great ~~the~~ gleams of duty and of being in
the place where god would have me - I have found great ~~peace~~ ^{rest} in
my arms and in telling him this is the path over which the holy spirit
has made me an unworthy overseer and so to keep of god's
name to take care of it - I have found I think some real sweet-
ness in the administration of gospel ordinances - the at some times
others feelings makes me groan - but for as to myself -
as to the state of religion - I think god is doing his work
in the hearts of his people and that we are all very much day the same things -
little flock and we are all very much day the same things -
But the best time I have kept for the day - and that is gods
merciful appearance for his little scattered flock at
mountain - for every mountain that has so long separated the
sheep of Christ there has been down at the present of the god
of Israel - opposites have ~~been~~ forced one way - Runaways are
come to the fold - prejudices are removed - jealousies are forgotten
and every root of bitterness is torn out of the ground to be used out of
that garden - I have attended two church meetings one conference
and two church days with them since I saw you - I have taught
four persons and some have been once among them and my dear
father had a sweet share of the dew that has fallen upon that
place - I was to have preached two discourses and administered baptisms
among them this week but by a change interposition of providence
I was hindered - I have always thought that there is some power in the
little flock at present - four I understand have been raised in the
at last - thus we together you have idleness in short of

New Salem Dec. 11th of Jan. 1840. Letter.

73

Dear Brother - I received your Letter of the 16th of Nov. and Likewise the books all which was acceptable especially when I found you willing to keep to hold a correspondence by way of writing. I hope we shall maintain it in Love & Unity till one or both of us takes our farewell of terrestrial things - I have much that I want to say and first as to my own state - about the middle of autumn I came very near getting asleep on my Guard - I was under some peculiar trials of an out ward nature and instead of trusting the Lord as I ought to have done I engaged too deeply in some temporal business and so got entangled in the affair of the life and a poor shift - I made for a while in my masters business O! Brother what a dreadful enemy is Distraction - my heart aches now while I write to think what a Distracted creature I have been - But alack the Lord has so appeared for me since that at present I want nothing but Sanctification - O! for Sanctification - I was ready to cry out a little while ago - is his mercy Clean gone for ever has the Lord forgotten to be gracious - but now I can say the Lord is the portion of my cup -

The Lord can Clear the Darkest Shew - Can give us Day for Night Make Drops of sacred sorrow Rise - to Rivers of Delight

I Bless the Lord he Exalts me from Vessel to Vessel - I pray he may always do so rather than Leave me to settle on my Lees - I meet with many sore trials but the furnace is a good place for the Gold it Loseth nothing but only what makes it more Burden'om - and such Losing is Blessed Losing -

For when I've Lost myself and all - that here doth Clogg my wing

I have no time to sleep at present and I Bless the Lord for that since sleeping is so dangerous especially in a Country so abound with robbers as this throughs which we are called to travel to our better home - I meet with much opposition - which makes me often think of the poet - The Straightness of my way - Betokens opposition I think the Lord is very kind to me every way for he throws me down to lift me up - and Exalts me to fill my cup - the Lord makes me wrestle sometimes all night till break of day and I get the blessing but I get the hollow of my thigh toucht Least I should be scattered about measure - O! Brother I have got so many Broken Bones already that it is enough one would think to keep me humble all my Days - but that nauseous weed of pride is so rooted through my nature that after it all seems to be cut Down yet it will sprout again - O! wretched man that I am &c - I suppose by this time you have had some reports concerning me of late and I shall be glad if you have had no false ones - for I have altered my Sentiments about some things of late which has caused much noise in this part of the country and many reports quite contrary from the truth of the case - therefore to set things in a true light before you I shall just touch on the things and give you my Integrative mind about them and what you may depend upon as the present Sentiments of my heart before God - and first respecting the Sabbath I have ever been of opinion heretofore that the first Day of the week under the Gospel was to be esteemed and observed

1770 J. B. Barker

as holy time as much as the Seventh Day was under the Law
and since I have profess'd to be a true follower of J^esus I have en-
deavour'd to observe it in like manner as they was command'd so
far as I understood their manner of keeping it - and I have been
heretofore much burdenn'd with the conduct of professors on that
Day and have preach'd and talk'd much about it - and labor'd
to reform what was amiss in them respecting it - I have also been
much perplex'd to find where to begin this holy time under the gospell
and I believe I may say I have spent days in the study and search
of this thing - and first I began it at midnight - from thence I got
to begin it at sundown and last of all at sun rise - after I
had stood here awhile I was put upon it sove by J^esus Bible that
under the Gospell one Day was any more holy than another which
at first I thought I could easily do but upon tryal found myself
nonplust - whereupon I turn'd about and deny'd there being any holy
time now as to perticular Days upon which an outery was rais'd
against me as if I had been some high way ~~rober~~ robber - but
time nor room will admit of telling what has pass'd only things
are comfortably settl'd - and my honest sentiment is that one
Day is as holy as another - but the first Day of the week is
by the Example of Christ and his early follower not appoart to
assemble together on for religious purposes and such other
things as are works of necessity and mercy always remem-
bring that the Disciples of Christ are daily to deny themselves and
take up their cross and follow him - and this is the way I desire
to spend every Day - and thus would I spend the first Day
all alone if I was depriv'd of publick worships and not to
please others neither or for fear of the civil magistracy but
to step in the steps of my master &c - the second
thing is respecting returning thanks after meat - I have been of opinion
this some years that there was neither precept nor Example in
the Bible for such a practice and in my own family I have omit't
when none but they was there - but amongst others I followed the
common custom - thus I went on and I believe without any spi-
ritual loss till accidentally I found some of my brethren of my
mind and practis'd much as I did which open'd the way to mention
it publicly and all agreed to lay it aside as a tradition of men
till we could find something in the Bible to support it and sum
of us still practice in it every where but sum are weak and
cant carry the cross and so have taken it up again - however
my eyes are pitch'd right on the Example of Christ when
several times he fed the multitude with common meals - and
likewise upon the Example of paul in his ~~4th~~ 5th Voyage to room
act 27. 38 - in all which I see not a word about any thing after
meat - therefore as christ has left us an Example that we should
follow his steps and as paul stept right after so I mean to do
as fast as I see them hoping I may never stop till I find
him at home in eternal glory - But at the same time I make
no disturbance with any body about such things - and if I chance
to sit at meat with saint or sinner I say all that I say
before meat and if they are minded to have any thing after
meat I let them do it and I orderly wait and attend upon it
Thirdly - Written Covenants and articles of faith in the Churches

is another thing I have Laid aside as being a thing not practised as I
can find in the Early Days of the gospel - it was a thing much in use
under the Law and I think Verry agreeable to that Dispensation - and I
Believe I have been as fond of the practice now as any in my Day
I have now by me a Covenant that I drew up some time ago with
Inlayments beyond any I ever saw - and I laboured much to get those
in the Church with me to set all our names to it - I thought to
have brought about some reformation by it and tryed some that
I was afraid were hypocrites - But I never could get it settled
for it Laid up professors among too little and gave the old man so
Little room that some opposed it pretty much - but the more pains
and godly approved it much - however I got thus much by it - I saw
that a name to Live satisfied too many professors among us -
not Long after this I heard one saying that church covenants and ar-
ticles of faith written ^{and} agreed on had no scripture warrent under the
gospel - well finding my fondling so stricken at it put me upon
drawing my sword to save its Life - but upon trial I was disap-
pointed for my sword would not come out against the person as I
expected - but turned rather against myself and I soon saw that
under the gospel that it was nothing but a piece of superflu-
ity and did no good but rather hurt for I remembered several In-
stances that I was knowing to where some coming out in reformation
those that were against it went about immediately to
discipline them as covenant breakers when at the same time
they were covenant keepers - and likewise when any difficulty got
up in the Church they would go right to work by their
Covenants instead of the Bible - so that I saw it was a thral to
the word of god whereupon I Laid aside the practice and so has
my Brethren till we can find something in the Bible for it for
I never mean to hold any thing (how Dear so ever it may
have been) any longer than I can find scripture warrent for it
for I am never afraid of Laying aside too ^{many} of the waits nor too
much of the ^{sin} that so easily besets us - but we have not
Laid aside keeping a careful church record as some ^{have} reported
as we had done - no but we Believe we have plain script-
ure for that as well as that it is Verry Necessary for the
welfare on many outward respects - I have been charged
with rejecting the Civil Majesty - but it is a wrong charge
for I believe that god ordains a Civil Majesty and Civil Laws
as much as he did an Ecclesiastical power and Laws - but I
Believe they are in two distinct Lines - and I do deny the right
of the Civil Majesty to touch any matter of Religion in the
least as not so much as to say what Religion I shall be of
or whether I shall have any at all - But at the same time
if any one embraces any Religion and pretends never so much
conscience in it and his Religion influences him to wrong his
Neighbours in his name person or Estate - or to Injure the
Civil properties of the Kingdom then I believe the Civil Ma-
jesty has a call from god to draw his sword and punish
such offenders for he is ordained of god for this Verry End
whether he be an heathen or a Christian - one thing more I am charged
with and that is Laying aside the old Testament - but I wish
had good grounds to believe that many who charge me so
had as high a value for any part of the Bible as I think I have for the Old

testament - for I Look upon it profitable for Doctrine for Reproof for correction for Instruction in righteousness - I Value the moral Law written and Engraven on Stones as I do a good Schoolmaster - I Value the types and Shadows as a Schoolmaster's finger to point the Child to what he is to Look on and the Language they speak is Behold the Lamb of God - But at the same time I Look upon the Gospel to be the Substance of all the Shadows and to be compleat Both for the Doctrine Discipline and manners of a Gospel Churches - yet I get many a sweet meal from the old Testament not ~~only~~ only from the Gospel language that is scattered up and down ⁱⁿ it but from travelling on the shadows down to the substance as Likewise viewing the heavenly Instructions from metaphors borrow from the works of Creation - thus I have no mint to part with any of my Bible what ever Charges men may lay upon me

But now as to the state of my flock things at present are very gloomy - part of them are turned ~~and~~ against me in case of disciplining a brother - those that came from among you which fast by me the others are almost all against me - a number has sent for a Council to admonish me - for they say that I am as bad as the pope and describe the power of the Beast Brother Jacobs of Royallston is with them and has advised them to what they have done - the Chh^l sent to are - Peterham Royallston Ashfield & Wilbraham to meet the 20 of Jan^y. thus you see how things are - I cant now relate particulars in this affair I shall wait till it is settled - I know not but I shall be admonish by these Churches and so consequently ~~are~~ you all but for what I dont yet know - But If I have committed any thing worthy I wish it may be done both by Christ and his Church - however I do believe there is a few names here yet that have defiled their garments - But hate even the garments spotted with the flesh - and altho we are branded as being wild antinomians yet I cannot but believe that God both give us some gracious visits and we do enjoy Communion with him and one with another - But it seems mainly to be with Deacon Smith and some families about him - the Scale seems strikingly altered - I came into this place not mainly for those families which came from among you But now they mainly stick by me and the others have mainly Left me as a wild antinomian for ought I can understand - But I am just such an antinomian as Brother Smith Bro^r Pierce and Bro^r Sampson and you know them perhaps better than I do - But I love these families better than ever and I am afraid there is some self creeps in tho I dont at present see it thus you have my state I hope you will save it Constant before God - it is shocking that so bright a morning has clouded up so soon - and the little flock at Montague is in but little better case ~~notwithstanding~~ notwithstanding its prosperity the summer past - I cannot but think but the foundation of all is ~~there~~ there is two different spirits in amongst us that cannot unite But are met as opposites on the field and will End in a separation - But I must close at present - pray for us - my love to your family unknown in the flesh - my love to a people of God - I do wish well to Zion to whom may grace mercy and peace be multiplied - farewell your Brother in many afflictions - Samuel Bigelow

S^r. Rigelow Letter,
May 13. 1773.

New-Jersey May 13. 1773

Beloved Brethren in Christ—altho absent in body yet I feel much present
with you in mind and I make you more visits that way than
I can possibly tell you of—my mind is often at New-Borough
and my body at New-Jersey—I have often wondered whether Bodies in
very made spiritual would not be as active as minds be now—
I receive your Letter of Mar. 7. which I read with satisfaction and
profit—in some of your sentences I like your Ideas (if I got them right)
better than my own—and I never mean to hold any thing one minute longer
than till I can part with it for a better—I don't know as I split with
you an hairs breadth (if I may so speak) Unless about written Covenants
and articles of faith—I have often thought on that passage you refer to
1st. 44-5. But I could never find in the Gospel any Literal ful-
fillment of it—Either in precept or Example—and therefore I conclude
that in a general sense of it—it alluded to the Gospel method of coming
into church order as an act of their own—or upon profession of their
own personal faith in Jesus Christ—and not as it was under the law
when they came in upon the act of Letter Circumcision performed on them
by another—however this is not a thing with me so weighty as to
break any fellowship or Church travail—and yet I sincerely believe
at present that as the sun of the Gospel arrives with more glory
and Lighter that this will die away as a thing peculiar to the Jew-
ish moonshine &c—those particular things I wrote to you about are
not matters of any difficulties in Zion this way as I know of—
the chief of my Christian Brethren within my particular acquaint-
ance ~~are~~ are very much with me—I have several things now in my
mind about which I think there is need of Reformation—but I
have said no great about them as yet—but intend to when it
shall appear ~~any~~ ~~matter~~ ~~that~~ ~~there~~ ~~have~~—for I believe this is
my work at present and I can't help but be about it—but I
shall omit any thing further about it at present—for my main
design in this Letter is to give you a sketch of our late
difficulties and how matters stand with us—and when I have done if
you bear it towards me as some of my Brethren this way do who
have been very dear to me—you will turn me out of your fellow-
ship as a pestilent fellow and mover of Sedition amongst the people
however I intend as much as I can in a Letter to do like Joseph's
Brethren—open my sack and if I have got any stolen goods I know
I have them Ignorantly and perhaps you may discover them—I have
kept a Journal of our whole difficulty which contains about five sheets
I shall set before you some of the most material things—first you
must understand that we are in two parties or companies—now the things
I mean to inform you of—are first the grounds of our split—secondly
the manner of our parting—thirdly who is on each side—first I said
those with me hold that Every thing ought to be a Bar of Communion
that is contrary to precept or Example of Christ ~~and~~ and his apostles
as far as the apostles were guided by the holy Ghost—the others don't
draw the line quite so tight—secondly—we deny any Gospel warrant
for Councils in cases of Discipline—but hold it troublesome and of sad con-
sequence to the Churches—the other hold it a prudential thing—
thirdly we deny any Gospel warrant for settling matters in a Church by
majority of Votes and binding the minor to subjection—they some
of them say it is ~~right~~ right & some look upon it a bondage
but can't see any better way at present and so they must use it
fourthly—we hold that a minor part of a Church have as good a
right to withdraw from the major as the major has from the minor
and that a single person may be called to withdraw from a whole
Church that he looks upon to be bad Brethren—in order to keep

a good Conscience himself - and that a withdraw is no Church Sen-
 tence - and that a Church Sentence consist in a Delivery up to Satan
 which we take to be a Binding on Earth - the most of this they deny
 but some of it they dont seem to know any thing about -
 fifthly we hold that if there be never so straight and ruleable
 External order yet if there is not the Spirit of Christ it - it is not but
 part right - yea that one cannot tell another his fault right with-
 out the Spirit of Christ - nor can he confess right without the Spirit
 of Christ - nor forgive right without the Spirit of Christ - nor
 admonish without the Spirit of Christ - nor in short without it do
 any thing - But they join upon the External order and Lay the
 whole Stress there - But Secondly as to the manner of our parting
 and here I must just give you a sketch of the Beginning of our Difficulty
 or what it was that began it - the Bro. at whose house my ordination was
 being at work in his Inclosure there came to him a young man of a
 loose tongue and talkt somewhat saucily at which the Bro. got
 provoked and warn'd him to Depart off his Land - he told him he should
 not go - & at Last after many words on both sides y^e Bro. struck
 him with his axe helve at which y^e fellow went away and got a
 warrant for him - but to pass that by - it got to my knowledge
 and the Bro. Confess'd it so that I thought it was done with as to me
 but not long after he was talking in my hearing with some persons
 about it and said he was sorry he struck him with y^e axe helve
 but he wist after he had warn'd him off and he did not go that
 had taken a good walnut stick and Lick'd him of and if it
 was to do again he would do so - I check'd him for his expression
 and told him he had better have counsel'd the poor creature to have us'd
 his tongue better and if that warn'd had done to have kept about
 his business and let him alone - he said it would have kept about
 and mightest way and most agreeable to Law and Gospel - this expression
 was not only offensive to me and contrary as I thought to the word of
 God - but shew'd the temper of mind he appear'd to stand in was a spirit
 of revenge - I labour'd several days & at several times in a private manner
 to convince him of his wrong but it grew worse and worse - I took another
 Bro. and talkt with him but to no purpose - I then brought it before
 the Chh. and they were divided about it - and agreed to send to Montague
 and Thoylston for advice - there came five Brethren from Montague
 and Dr. Nathaniel Green providentially fell in - we laid our case all out
 before them - they said the steps I had taken were straight - and the
 matter in the Bro. contrary to the Gospel and they advis'd him by all
 means to Confess it - but told the Chh. it was not a sufficient bar of com-
 munion - part fell in with the advice and part did not - and they got
 divided about their own advice before they went from the place
 so they left us no better than they found us - after this I let the
 matter rest a while and then call'd the Chh. together again for further
 Labour but nothing was effected - there were four of us always toge-
 ther the rest were of different sentiments - some of them stood fast
 against me and some of them on both sides seemingly - this meet-
 ing brake up without much hopes of their coming together again to
 do any thing about it - however it want long before I got them
 all together on Lords Day and after the publick worship was over I
 stop't the Church and told them that I could Lead them no further in this
 manner for this matter must be settled we had better be apart than
 together in such a manner and I did never intend to Dismiss them
 again till something was done - upon this three of the Brethren
 requested we would meet together on the next Friday for Dr. Jacobs
 was providentially coming into town and would be glad to see us
 together and we should get his advice and see what further light

he had got to hold out to us about our Difficulty - there was ~~too~~
more thought it best to have the meeting but four of us ~~pled~~ ^{pled} against
it but could not prevail - four of us ~~looked~~ ^{looked} upon it wrong to have
that meeting in such a manner - we had had too many such before and
it was only for advice and to see what further light might be gained
and we were clear already about what ought to be done and we
could not attend the meeting - one of them ~~truly~~ ^{truly} we need not attend
if we were ~~told~~ ^{told} they could tell us what advice was given - we
told them ~~then~~ ^{then} we must still have another meeting & we had had four
already and it was abusive to fetter some of us five & ten miles
on this business any more - but it availed nothing - therefore we ~~four~~
withdrew the bond of fellowship from the P. Bro. Intending to do it
from the rest if we could not reclaim them - tho we look upon it
now that we ought to have withdrawn from the whole then - well
when the Day came they met all but one that appointed the meeting
I also went being ~~close~~ ^{close} by - El. Jacobs came - he ~~asked~~ ^{asked} when the meet-
ing was appointed - they told him - he ~~asked~~ ^{asked} whether by a majority of
the Chh. they said yes - he ~~asked~~ ^{asked} whether for a Chh. meeting and three
of them ~~said~~ ^{said} yes the other ~~said~~ ^{said} no and ~~said~~ ^{said} no it was only to hear
advice &c - but the three stood to it that it was a Chh. meeting
and they were the major of five and five were the major of
nine so El. Jacob made them the Chh. and advised them to act as a
Church in that meeting which they did and called upon me to Lead
them as moderator and I ~~refused~~ ^{refused} - they chose a Scribe and another
moderator and demanded my reasons why I ~~refused~~ ^{refused} to serve them -
then they agreed ~~by~~ ^{by} as a Chh. to send for a Council of four Chhs to
come and deal with me - three of them sent - viz - ~~Houston~~ ^{Houston} ~~and~~
~~Cowthorpe~~ ^{Cowthorpe} as the Chh. and in what they had done - they sent for me
and the rest but we did not go - they ~~alleged~~ ^{alleged} seven things against me
and divided them to send them to me and give me three weeks time to
take them up and if I did not then to withdraw from me as the Chh.
they ~~alleged~~ ^{alleged} two things against the other that were with me and laid them
under admonition - they none of them come to see me - and I confess
it was some stuff that I did not get to see them - but I can truly say
before god that was not the chief - after this they came and demanded the
Church Records twice before Evidence and threatened me a Law suit for
them - and flung about my Character as one would toss a ball - and set
up a meeting on Lords Day close by me - tho there was none attended
it only the three and one who I had ~~told~~ ^{told} with before for talking -
all this made me think that either Satan was come down with great
rage or I had got much out of the way and the ~~rest~~ ^{rest} was come upon
me - yet I never more sensibly Enjoyed God in my soul than I did now
at times whereby I know I had an honest mind for god - but I
even trembled some times to think of what was come and what
was coming and thought I would make the most Impartial Examination
on to see if I could find myself to blame as they had faulted me
and I Examined and confessed till I had confessed ^{much} more that they ~~alleged~~ ^{alleged} against
me Except owning them to be the Church but it did nothing avail unless
I would confess that too - I talked to them and wrote to them several ~~times~~
in all but all did not do - and some said one thing and some another
some said I had confessed too much and given up the truth and now my
Life would go for it and I should drop on the field - and truly I found my
soul not in so good state as before I confessed any - and I began to be jealous
I had given up that I should not - and my jealousy was increased by some further
Light breaking in from some scriptures - now I thought it time to cast all
mortals out of the question and look of every sillible of the word of God
for myself - and before I had done I took back again the most of what I had

Dr. Bro^r - after I had finished the Sheet that is here sealed
 (which its most proper you should read first) and finding I must
 bestow this half Sheet to wrap it up I had a Desire to fill up this
 vacant page a little - and first I would a little soften one
 Expression that perhaps may sound too harsh to speak about
 Brethren - and that is that I had not been treated with manhood
 Let it be - that I think I have not been treated with brotherly Love
 however I hope you wont draw up much of Judgment till
 you hear both Sides - I have got I think an honest Journal of
 both Sides with all the material Circumstance - and I am willing
 it should come to Light - and if I have put down things as
 they can be proved I am willing it should feel the flames -
 as to the temper of mind we bear towards one another - I can speak
 for one - I have as free a correspondence in civil matters as ever I had - I
 am often at the Dr. house and with whom I had the first Difficulty
 and I have Dealings in temporal things as occasion requires -
 But I have wholly lost my Charity for him as a Christian
 and my treasures therefore are too many to insert here - I begin
 to be very jealous that our Ch^h this way have got many Enlight-
 ned hypocrites in them that cannot bare Sound Doctrine - Christ
 seems to dwell in the mouths of many whose Lives are full
 of this world - most all seem to Love to hear of a Christ
 Crucified a Calvary 1770 years ago - but come to tell
 them of Christ Crucified in our hearts and Lives now - and
 bring it home to them - that neglects to watch thy
 heart and neglects thy Closet - walks in conformity to
 the world - lets as one sit at home with idle and vain persons -
 keeps loose & loose company in thy house - Lets thy Children
 rollick - hard and late in thy Dealings - Increases thy
 goods and is but little to God or to Christ - Indulges
 thy family in the gay fashions of the times - Lets the worlds
 bells be heard in the morning before Christ - and regards the
 honour of men more than the honour of God - I say preach up Christ
 Crucified in this manner and much more of the like nature - and then
 the Holy Spirit will soon appear - In short some that awhile ago
 were seemingly have plucked out their Eyes and given me - I am
 now become their Enemy - I have often thought on Pauls words
 as hath forsaken me - and all they which were in Asia have
 turned away from me - But I know its Natural for all to make
 their own side good - But pray dont take my word for it but
 come and search us out - I have told you of some that are with me
 now I remember it - I was lately to pay Bro^r Blossom & Sister
 and they desired me to remember their Love to you and all
 first time I wrote - their souls and mine have ever been bound
 together since we became acquainted - and I have had a sweet
 communion from them some times - and I believe they have from me and
 not I nor they - I have a number of Shells in that place which
 God has given me and none can get them away - nor me from them
 we suffer together and rejoice together - and I have proved them so
 that I think they are real Branches - But I can assure your Bro^r
 as to many professors of our Denomination this way - it is one
 to see them in their Sabbath Day Dress and another to see them in
 Every Day Dress - which makes me often think on Pauls words
 walk of whom I have told you and tell you weeping - they
 are Enemies to the Goss of Christ &c - and Bro^r I must close

unwillingly

I have not distin-
 guished enough between Internals & Externals
 Id. and

and what I have written may afford you matter enough for many
 for me - and if I never see you to speak ~~face~~ face to face here
 it will be but a short space before I shall meet you where
 Stormes can never come but we shall forever swim in the sea
 of Eternal Love - and blessed be the Lord I can say this without one
 Doubt - and I believe I shall believe it tho you should be against
 me in ~~the~~ many things - but I cant say this of all that I have known
 that I could - but alas where have I got - I am using flattery ere I
 am aware - my passions have run away with me - farewell at this time
 J. Bro. Samuel Sigelow

Bigelow's lot
 May 19, 1793.

To
 Mr Isaac Backus
 in
 Middleborough
 Mass

Recd. May 29
 1793.

Cry out many times - woe is me that
 I sorrow in flesh and dwell in the
 tents of Cedar - your letters put me upon
 two things - viz. searching into the Law
 of forbearance and what thing may be
 bore with consistent with the great
 End of Christian Society - and I am
 jealous I have been some wanting in
 both of them - in our late Difficulty
 with regard to the whole of my Chris-
 tian travail with Mr Goodale I have
 not find the word of God for my con-
 science as yet to condemn me - but
 in this last Difficulty I think myself
 to fall short - but sending more closely
 to consider on it - and take up what is
 yet wrong - the Book your Recommendation
 to me I should be glad of - but I have
 engaged with a Book seller in another
 for some books of late - which together
 with Confessionary Charges on account of
 bodily Infirmitie - which yet in part
 remain - has brought to the strength at
 present - and the price is small - get
 it makes something in a strait - I am
 and always was - easily persuaded to body
 that I was - and it is through inability
 that I have many more than I have -
 I have spread your Letter before our
 Brethren here - and as to that respect-
 ing our Liberties it is universally agreed
 that provided the Lib. can harmoniously
 agree that it is best to forgoe all Lib. which
 much more I hope to say and ward to
 say - but hard noons - therefore hoping
 I may yet see you and speak face to
 face, remain your poor brother
 Samuel Greglow

Saml. Greglow
 Letter July 28. 1773.

Recd. Dec. 4.
 1773.

witness of antinomianism - I have not distin-
 guished between the Law and the Gospel

the minute of the association I said you for at needfield
 A Letter from you I have been long looking wishing & waiting
 and now I have it at last

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Newfalem July 29 - 1773
Dr Bro^r I send you what is here Inclosed - and if your patience
will hold out to read it - and if you can follow a track that
is Back and forward - you may find - where I have been blundering
about. Ever since I made a profession of Religion according
to our present mode - you will also see how matters have been
Conducted among us - through the whole of our Late Difficulty -
and how they at present are situated - the Reasons of my
sending you this piece - you will see at the Beginning - The piece
you have at the first hand - as to the form it is now in - I
have no Exact Copy of it - and much of it - I have no where
but in memory - it is full of blots - scratches and Interlines - it
is Doubtless much of it Spelt wrong - for I am master of but
a Little of the Rules of Spelling - having never had much
privilege of a School - so that what Little humane Learning I
have - is chiefly through my own Industry in Schooling myself
and others - many words that I well know how to Spell upon a
Deliberate thought - I am apt to Spell wrong - through haste in
wrighting - and as to the Stops and points - which are Essential to
be observed - in order to get the sense of what is said - I Verry
well know them - and their Various places - and uses - but not
being accustomed to use them in wrighting at my first setting
out - I Dont do well know how to accustom myself to them
now - therefore I only make a Division between the Greater
parts of my wrighting - by a Little Straight Stroke ^{of 20th} with my pen
as to notes of Interogation - Exclamation - with Capitals in their
places - with many other such like things - I wholly omit what
Little I know of them - and if you can get my Ideas by my words
that is the main thing I aim at - therefore receive it with
Errors Excepted - I trust your Gift of Discerning - will by this time
easily Discover - my Constitution - I am of a quick mod - my
mind runs fast - so that I even out run myself many times - my
mind has almost Destroy'd my body - and had I not been taught
Latterly - something more how to Govern it - I believe it would quite
have Done it before now - and the Battles I have had - to bring
my will and Affections - to obey my Understand - both in Civil
and Religious matters - none knows but god and myself - but I
had need to be held in with a curb Bridle yet - I am a
Sheep that can seldom go without a Clogg - and O! the Sweet
ness that has sometimes been in those words Heb. 12 - 6 - it has
made my Clogg fkele Lite and Easy &c - truly Bro^r it has been
a stormy Season - but blessed be my Rock - I have sometimes found
good anchorage in the midst of it - and methinks now I feel the
Bottom - one thing through gods Unbounded mercy - I have Doubled
above this three year - and that is my Justification before god - in
the Righteousness of his Son - this hope as an anchor to my soul
has got into that that within the Vail - so that I can truly say
with the Ingenuous Doct young in his peace on Resignation -
what the Lord swallowed in the Deep - the billows over me roar
Jehovah Preighs as Jonah safe - I'm Landed on the shore.

A Letter from you I have been long Looking & waiting
and now the greatest Satisfaction is that it contains

But notwithstanding this - I am full of heart Storms and uproars
as Mr. Shepherd calls them - but as father Bungan said - the good
frame of my heart dont make my righteousness any the better
nor the bad frame of it any the worse - for Jesus Christ is my right-
eousness the same yesterday to day and for ever - Ship. Experiences -
and grace abounding to the Chief of sinners &c. - there is another
thing about which I am some more freed from Doubtings and Unbelief
than I have been heretofore - and that is my right to minister in
holy things - I have been ~~near~~ hard put to it about this many times
Even since I was publicly set apart to it - but of late I feel
my head more above water respecting it - my trouble has all along
been the want of more and better evidences - and now they are not
increased in number - but only seem more bright and clear -
my best evidences are as follows - viz. - first - that when I believe
the strongest about my worth of ministering - and run with most
willingness to it - I have then the most familiarity and intercourse
with the word and spirit of god - but on the other hand - the contrary
Secondly - the free and hearty testimony of the saints - and that too
such as I esteem most spiritual - Sometimes - when I have been sunk
into Diffidencies about my right to this work - and have been telling
my trials to some fellow travellers - they would reply - they wondered
I should doubt of such a thing - when they had been more benefited by
me this way - than by all other teaching ever they had - This would
give me a little lift - and remove the objection I had against myself
viz. that I never did any good - again I have sometimes been in pri-
vate visits discoursing with some that I had reason to think kind
as much in their closets as any where - and they would tell me of
their own free will - how they felt under such a discourse - and
what they got at such a time - and that such a sermon was just
their case and I preached all to them and the like - and I have
thought sometimes on hearing such things - that it would be enough
for me only to feed one of Christ's Left Lambs - and none ever knows
it in this world but the receiver - but then again - for ought appears
as yet I must be a Saviour of Death unto Death to all out of Christ
and further - O! the many Dead Bull and Lifeless Discourses I deliver
together with an awful Degree of Self that works every way
get me yet to the Edge of the Slough of Despond - and if god dont
help - will again get me in - but a third Evidence is - that some-
times when I am standing like young Samuel ministering before
the Lord - I feel him standing by to strengthen me - and Enable me
to clear my garments of the blood of all souls - and I feel then as
if I was acquitted - and could go from such a discourse to gods bar
to give up my account - but O! these seasons are rare - but when
I have them I cant find the bone of a Doubter above ground in all
manifold - and my heart even leaps for joy while I think and write
of them - of all the calls to preach the gospel I ever heard - I have
the nearest fellowship with the Godly Bungs - your Book on the
Internal Call - tore me all to pieces once since I began - but a fourth
and last Evidence is - that sometimes when through Bodily Infirmitie, I have
for some time been detained from ministering to the saints - I have been so
full of the word of the Lord - I was weary with forbearing the
wickedness of antinomianism - I have not distin-

Apr. 9 & 10
20 I received
books, the
savage &c
my eyes
to hear you
in P. Witten
the other
I wrote
Remarks
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wickedness of antinomianism - I have not distin-

work of Leading- you will, something of
that at the latter end of my book -
and now - I would inform you that after
I had begun this Letter, I received a
packet from you - by way of Mr. Leach
containing three books and five letters
all which I have endeavored to convey
as they belonged - I thank you for the
book - I rejoice to such advantages to
promote such an important branch of
the pure Religion - it is a branch that
much withers this way - and I never ex-
pect to see good times till this Union-
fully flourishes - may God appear for it -
I am sorry to hear of the failure of
my other book - I feel more and more the
want of it - but I blame none about it -
your Letter ~~rejoiced~~ me much - methinks
I would not willingly do any thing that
might deprive me of the privilege of this
correspondance - tho' I might gain an ~~little~~
by doing for it - I am glad to hear of the
promise of the father sent on middlebury
and other places whereby King Jesus
enlarges his dominions - and extends his
kingdom - O! that such knowledge of God
might cover the earth as the waters do
the sea - the saints here are ~~rejoiced~~
at the joyful news - and some poor thought-
less souls seem a little touched - but
this is a stupid harden'd place - there
has been some awakening, and is yet -
But no ~~genuine~~ genuine convictions
Some untimely deaths I fear - and I joy
that won't endure - and that hath ~~been~~
died already - had knowledge abounded
this way amongst ~~the~~ people - I fear more
than heart knowledge - also - I say, ari-

New Salem Nov. 20-1778

Bro. Allen - who brought me the Books - by whom I send
this Letter and pay for the Books according as you write the
price - the minute of the association I paid you for at midfield
A Letter from you I have been long looking wishing & waiting
for - and now my greatest Disappointment is that it contains
no more - yet I cannot find fault - your Deficiency has God's
Punishment for it - I thank you for hints when I can't have more
I pray our father in heaven to reward you for here a little
and there a little - and ^{all} the glory redound to his Name -
time won't now admit of I one half I want to write - but
hints must do on my side also - after I parted from you at
Bro. Plimtons - I made my way to Newton where I intended
to tarry over Lord Day - and it being my Lot to travel without
human Society - I was meditating on things spiritual and soon
had some such reflections as follows - viz. I have had a profitable
Journey respecting myself as an Individual - but respecting
the Dear and suffering Cause of Christ in New-Salem I have
got nothing to any purpose but for ought I can see
I must go home and go on as I am and so things must
all remain for vain is the help of man - and God don't ap-
pear to teach me any other way - and now I know I can
appeal to God who knows the secrets of my heart - that I am
sincerely following the measure of Light he gives me either
by Instruments or Immediately by his Spirit in his word
~~But no longer was that reflection from the word my mind~~
But these reflections were no more than well gone through my
mind - but it seem'd as tho a window was Instantaneously
open'd in my Understanding - which let in such a flood of
Light from the written word as made the greatest part
of my Internal travail and leading in our late Diffi-
culty Look just like the tracks of a person who was
Lost and bewildered in a vast wilderness with a Loaded
Carriage Zealously Driving here and there to get along
on his Journey thinking himself in the way - tho all
ways But either Crossing it or going on the one side or

Inform you that things are in a much better

on the other side notwithstanding I had been
now without Evidence - but now falls a path before me which I had
not before seen - and without any resistance or fear of losing any
wood hay or stubble - I threw down my weapons and gave up all
the powers of my Soul to receive what might Now be offered
carefully Looking on all and bringing it to the Standard - watching
that my passions and affection (which are apt to flow high) did not
cheat me - but Lookt with the Eyes of my understanding which
were now further anointed - and by this means I got in a few hours
to see what ought to have been done - and what ought not to
have been done - and also what ought now to be done respect-
ing the ~~main~~ main things in our Difficulties - I cant in such a
Letter tell any thing particular - But I thought to make Speed home
and begin the work that now lay before me - still Examining all
the way Left I should be misled - now tho. I had Nearly concluded I
would never try to Lead again in Discipline (tho. I Intended to in
other things) yet Now I thought I would Recall that Conclusion for
the present - as soon as I could I set my Light on the candlestick
which was received by the Chief - one yet remaining in the Dark
about it - and the Bro^r withy whom the Difficulty first was
sheluded to have any thing to do with me or so much as
to hear me say a word about Religion in his house or
in any place where he is - but will turn me out of his
house if I say a word there - and in other places will go
away himself if I say one word about Religion - Looking
upon me the biggest apostate that ever was - refuses to attend
a Church meeting with me - and is for having the Visibility
Defiled and Every one go where he Likes best - and he himself
goes to the other meeting in this place - and none to any baptist
meeting as I hear of - and this Bro^r's obstinacy with others of
his conduct is so shocking that some of but little fortune
who really want something done and to come together - yet much
give back out of fear - So that things move on Verry slowly
we have ^{had} Nothing but private Labour till Last week when
all were together but two - and a Verry friendly meeting it was
and much Brotherly Love was seen and felt - there appeared nothing
then but that those might yet travail together

It was held at Conference - and a Chh meeting appointed on
the 26 Instant - we expect Mr Jacobs to attend it -
those of them who were present the Chh have owned I have been wrong
and that they took the advantage when I stumbled in bringing
up the arth - they have also owned that the meeting which was
appointed at my house on Lords Day Evening to be held at Bro.
Gods. I am I was not appointed as a Chh meeting for action
and that four of us had liberty to stay at home from it -
But they seem Loth to Lose so much ^{of their action} as some of us think
that confession obliges them to - tho they do not appear to learn
be any ways stiff - and in short I saw no stiffness in any
thing in our last weeks meeting - those two who were not go
with us hold me an offender for Improving my gift since on
the settlement of the Council - and also all that have attended w
with me to be guilty Likewise - I hold myself wrong for break-
ing bread which I did but once - I have Baptised none -
thus matters are at present - the sequel god only knows but
my severity at first was too Great - I stated things too high &
I made more haste than I had Need - I did not keep things in the
their place - I did not understand the duty of a minor part
of a Chh. when the major was against them - nor what method you
they might or might not Lawfully take to redress their griev-
ances when aggrieved - and in short I knew scarcely any thing
about conducting such Difficulties - and I wonder any should
want me set in the place I was in - but I have been to school
and tho a Dull Schoolboy - yet have learnt some by the things I
I have suffered - I have ~~been~~ ^{born} the youth in my youth and it
has been good for me - I am none Discouraged tho much afflicted
I have no mind to give out or Draw back - for the Crown is
Before - and through much Tribulation I Expect to come at it - tho
I cannot feel weak while I Lean upon that Staff Matt 28-20
I hold my brethren of the Council to have beaten me and
to have taken the advantage of me and have pushed me &
I believe they did not mean so - I can easily forgive them -
I hope it will all be made up - as to your observation 27

I shall not come my last - I have the happy

in your Letter about my not ^{to} anything aright between Civil and Ecclesi-
astical Government it is good - and I don't lack at present any remarkable
difference in my mind from yours; if I have your Dear - the Restoration I
have been somewhat dark - and I believe my Dear have been told some
mistakes for I have allowed the use of the Civil sword to defend Civil rights
yet not so as to make it agreeable to the tenor of the Gospel that we draw
this sword at every little offence and that too when it is only committed in words
by poor miserable creatures who call by all their conduct for pity and soft words
from us - neither do I allow that the injured may lay on punishment themselves
upon the offender when it is right it should be done - but come before the Judge
tho I think we may lawfully withheld by force a lawless person from dragging
our effects till in a lawless way he may be brought before the Judge - but I think
if we attend the christian who should do it with admiration of his meekness
on us - and pity both to soul and body of our fellow creature - and give us a
an unmovable man will an unmovable seat - instead of putting on a logg - beat
it with sticks and Clubs - but I must close for this time - fare well - stay for me
your unworthy bro: in the Gospel - J. Bigelow

My dear

Mr. James Backus

J. B.

Rec. Nov. 27.

Sam. Bigelow
Letter Nov. 20. 1790

New Salem Decr 9 27-1773

My dear Brother ~~since~~ my Last - I have the happiness to
Inform you that things are in a much better Situation
the Little Scatter'd flock in this place are mostly got
together - Enjoying brotherly Love and Unity - Bro. Gonsale
is averse to walking with us - But practically and pro-
fessedly (at present) appears most Inclined to go with
the other Denomination - Before the major and minor
got together he Labour'd to have the Visibilityabol'd
But since he Denys that ever we were a Church
and requests a Dismission from us as a number
of Brethren in Covenant - but mention'd no company
to be Dismiss'd unto - only to go where he was sent
he has made Satisfaction for some faults - and we
have given up the thing I first began upon as not
being a Consumable Evil - we are in Labour with him
But how matters will turn I know not - No there
is much appearance at present that he Intends to go
out from us - Lett he be admonish'd - he has sworn
that those who had offend'd ^{him or the Ch} have made full Satisfaction
The Chh on Last monday Labour'd with him in a brotherly
manner to walk with us - Laying before him the sad
Consequence of going back &c - I suppose we have
settled matters in the fellowship of the Chh's the Chh
of Hoxallton assisted by their Eld. &c - as to my-
self I found in some of the Charges against ^{me} the whole
was just - and in all I came short - so that I allnd
to the Satisfaction of all - I Desire with humble
modesty to Confess. I have been much Lost in the
wilderness of antinomianism - ~~I have not~~ I have not Distin-
guish'd enough between Internals & Externals
between Law and Gospel between body and

That want - that peace is well done - the glory be to God - an hundred fold to you

5
I spirit - I have been better on ~~the~~ sail than
for Ballast which has caused Great Shipwreck
among us to our harm and Loss - I have felt
sometimes sorry at heart that I set out so soon
and did not wait for more Experimental knowledge
and yet on the other hand I find I have learnt
much while under this trial that I know not
as I should ever have learnt without it - I feel afraid
to try again and yet I can't help it - I do really
think I have had as real a Conversion in respect
of Leading a Chh in Difficulties - as I had respecting
Salvation by Christ - and tho before I thought I knew
something yet now it seems as if I knew nothing
and I am almost afraid to say I know any thing
now - I often think of what the poet says

The Snare of Satan ly so low - and are so smoothly platt
I'll softly tread where ever I go - and never act in haste
I find it wont do to Judge of Externals by Internals
nor of Internals by Externals - but bring all to the
written word - and not only so but to see that the word
Explains itself - and Critically to observe to whom the
passage is spoken that is under consideration - and what
it respects and to when it refers - I find great need
of rightly Dividing things in order to come at a right
Judgment - I have been great need of taking words and
actions apart - as also of Dividing Between the word
or action and the temper of mind in which it is spoken
or Done &c I Doubt not Bro^r but that if you have
had time thoroughly to peruse my ^{writing} ~~writing~~ - you
will find much Crooked Steerage - for I think I made that
a trespass which would not bear and that which

much without this way - and I never can

would bear I turn too high and after a while I Left
the true plan of Leading - Indeed I never had it right - so
that I have suffered the Loss of much wood hay and stubble
by not building right on the foundation - I think I have as much
parted with my plan and got another - as ever I parted with my
own righteousness for the righteousness of Christ - I was very
desirous to keep all enemies out of the house - and turn all out
that got in - and so I had much zeal for God that was not
according to knowledge - the thoughts of how I have Led is very
discouraging sometimes - I pray you to forgive me my wrong for
I doubt not but you have seen much more than you have made
known - I hope you will bear me on your heart and in your
prayers - I trust and believe that God has taught me that
which will serve to regulate me much more through
his blessing and assistance - but I desire to be slow to
speak and walk softly - and forever to be sensible I am
the Least in the Kingdom &c I think that an antinomian
spirit is a very destructive to all order in the Church
I think of it much as Mr. Edwards did of spiritual pride that
it is like the coats of an onion - when one is off there is yet
another &c - it has much tainted many Godly ones this way
and by what I hear I fear your part are not free of it
a Volatile spirit is a rich soil for it - I pray the Lord
that such as are of a different turn may conduct with
prudence towards such brethren - I am persuaded I have been
brought right by under such operations (I mean from my brethren)
I think there is no driving such a spirit out by austerity - the
persons will rather go themselves - I think it is a high spirit
hard to be got above - I should rather try to unchain it and
pull it down - I think this and the contrary spirit are like two
thieves on each hand of Christ's mystical body and each one takes
according to his appetite - and that these might be crucified that
they might not suck the blood of the Ch - I believe they are the
two pillars of Babel's temple at this day and two idols that
many adore & that a lot of them might never again be found
in the temple of my heart - if they were down nothing all the
saints would be one - & for our spiritual samson - but I must stop
my hasty brother - with my love to your family whom I shall
speak in the flesh - to the saints - may God bless with you all
these from yours
Bro: - Samuel Beal

Sam^l. Ripdow Coll^r
Dec. 27. 1798.

To
Mr Isaac Buckus
in
Middleborough Mass.

Rec^d Jan. 12th
1798.

New-salem Apr. 9 & 10.
Faithful & D^r Bro. — a few Days ago I received
your Letter of 17 Jan^r. and also the books, they
all came safe, tho were Long on passage &c
when I had open'd the Letter and cast my eyes
on the salutation, my heart Melted to hear you
say, Verry Dear Brother. also what am I. Wittenly
Unworthy of one part, much more of the other &c
your giving me fellowship about the things I wrote was
Strengthening and Comforting. I Like your Remark on
James 3-1. I have had a much clearer sight of it since
than ever before, and also how much of my former
plan has in many things been in the face of that
text, but I obtain'd mercy as paul did, because I did
Ignorantly. I am full with you in saying that all the
Refinings of false Religion cant keep persons from
Discovering a Contrary temper of mind when exposed.
I am yet ~~that~~ Verry Medfast, in the things I have
Learned by my sufferings. I have (I think) been really
Converted in point of Leading, and it is as real a
Change as that was from Nature & Sin, to the
Grace of y^e Gospel, and wrought by the same power, and
is of as much advantage in the things it respects, and
the path appears Brighter & Brighter, and altho I can
do nothing without Christ, any more now than before,
yet I have this advantage. viz. of being in the way when
he walks, and promiss his aid. as to things among
us they are comfortable, and in a Measure of pro-
sperity on many respects. Sweet Union is in the
Body, and a comfortable frame of mind in Individuals

I have Done marvelous of Late in Bringing home two
of his Elect, a man & his wife who were Considerably
past the meridian of Life, the woman a strong quaker
from a Child & the man a Verry Stupid one as to any
Care at all about his Soul till 2nd of Nov^r. Last
when an arrow fasten'd in his heart which I trust wa
not remain'd till Christ took it out. they ^{have} ~~are~~ both
Submitted to ordinances with Clearness and full Satisfaction.
I have Complain'd to you (and much more to my heavenly
father) of being Childless, but I Can make this Complaint
no Longer, only Speak of the Smallness of the Number.
But O! Unworthy me. I think Sometimes it Cant be true,
and am ready to fear they will turn away, but Satan
and my remaining Lusts, Love to be troubling me, and
when they Cant Do it on one hand will seek to Do it
on another. there are Some others seem to Stand at
the Door, O! that they might Come in at the Door &c
These things I Confess have as yet been more Strengthening
and Comforting to my poor heart, and Encouraging to go
on with my work, than the Riches of India or gold
of Peru Could have been. Bro^r. Goodale walks no more
with us as yet. I have wholly Given up the perticular
point I took him upon, as not being a Censurable Evil.
I have been Set into the Nature of Government, Civil
and Ecclesiastical, with the Nature of Liberty, and Security
of properties, with more Clearness of Late, than Ever.
and I know nothing but I am at peace & in fellowship
with all the Churches who were offended. I am in
full fellowship with the Annual Assembling of the Ch^h.
By messengers, and their Joining as a Compact body

to act their affairs in such a manner, I Look upon it
as really Necessary for the present Day, as for the mem-
bers in our Church to meet for a Chh. meeting. I
purpose to Lead my Little flock in, the Next meeting
If I can &c — and Now before I Close I must tell you
Some trials I Labour under in my mind. first. I am
tried about keeping Days set apart for Religious
Service, by the civil magistrate. Secondly I am tried
that any should persuade the Chh: to think it
their Duty to follow any plan for the support of the
Gosple, whereby the Right of Individuals judg-
ing when they have Done their Duty, is Infringed.
it is my opinion that the Gosple Leaves it in the
hands of Individuals to say how much, and in what
Species they shall Give their teacher, and if the Chh.
Should think any of her members were Deficient they
might stir them up to their Duty, or what they ^{thought}
was Duty, but not to proceed in a Course of Discipline
against them any more than for not praying, or
treading or Coming to meeting so much as they should.
I am not for having these things Left to the Care
of Every hearer, but to Choose overseers, and Let
them take Subscriptions. This my people have
Done of Late, taking the whole Care of my tempo-
ral affairs upon them, Because of my weak State
of Body. Now Dr. Br: I must Close, tho I have more
things ^{to want} to speak of, I pray you to send me your heart
Sentiment on the two particulars, others I Leave to ano-
ther time, wishing you, your family & flock all Divine
favours, & Craving an Interest in your prayers, I rest your
poor Brother in Christ.

J. Bigelow

Samuel Elledge Esq
Letter Apr 8. 1774.

For
Mr Isaac Backus
in
Middleborough Free

New-salem June 13. 1776

Beloved Brother. it is a long time since I wrote to you, much longer than I have desired, partly for want of opportunity for conveyance, but more through want of ability to ~~right~~ write &c. I shall just give you a little sketch of gods dealing with me the year past. Towards the beginning of the last year it pleased our divine master to cloath me with his authority to preach the gospel beyond what I ever before felt, which continued through the summer, and I hoped to with some benefit both to Saints and Sinners tho very Inconsiderable to what others met with for or to what my Soul Desired &c. towards the latter part of the year I was led to preach the blessed effects of true religion in suffering times, partly from my own experience, but more from the various instances of its effects in Left on sacred record, all which I had reason to fear was coldly received by the greatest part of my hearers, which caus'd me sorrow of heart. well, after all this it pleas'd god to bring upon me personal suffering and try me to purpose, that I might more effectually know by experience whither I had got that religion I had preached, and whither its ef-

few words at a time

feels were as good as I had bore witness of it
and blessed be the lord, I hope I was not
mistaken, only that I did not tell the
one half of its real worth. my trials
have been a complication of bodily weaknesses
joind by the long fever, which seized me
the monday after thanksgiving and brought
me to Deaths door, and held me for the space
of three months, and before I was sufficiently
able, I got abroad, through the longing
Desire I had for the publick worships, and
seeing it to be under a Decay, it went very
near, and my spirits considerably elevated
I got three relapses one upon the back
of another, which ^{held me for two months more} gave me a greater Shock
than my first sickness - it but left me out
of the grave, Stript of all my courage
and spirits, I lay like a plant cut down by
the mowers hand in the Growth of Summer
and tho before I could say, he hath done all
things well, he gave and took away and
blessed be his name, o death &c. now
I cryed out has the Lord forgotten to be
gracious, will he remember mercy no more
but yet I can say tho he slay me I will trust
in him &c. I am now so far recovered
from all as to be able to attend on
publick worships and hold two short exercises

with much debilitation and lowness, and I
have no present hope of attaining to inward
strength, to do any thing any other way.
I received a short but refreshing letter from you
dated Jan^y 29 Last. I expect by what you
said then that our history is out before now not
but I have heard nothing further about it. ^{the}
I am under great disadvantages every way
with respect to gathering the money for my
Subscription, most of the persons living several
miles distant and out of town and seldom
meet in our congregation, and some not
at all, and I unable to ride more than
a mile or two on an easy going beast
and whither the length of time and alteration
of affairs, ^{since the subscription was put out} have not so engrossed people's minds
to other things as that some will fall
back, I know not, however I shall do the
best that I can under my circumstances
when I shall hear they are out &c.
as to the state of religion here, the tide
is much gone down, and things at a low
ebb than I have known them since I
have lived here, yet I believe the Lord has
not forsaken us. we had one bro^r who
we trust fell asleep in Jesus a few weeks
ago. viz. Heuben Powers, who died of a cancer
my paper is out and my strength is out. So
farewell for this time with my love to
your family and all Inquiring friends &c
J. Bigelow

few words at a time through weakness of hear

Mr. Sigmond
6th June 13.

1746

Recd. June 30. 1746. 13.
Middleborough Mass.

For
Mr. Isaac Backus
in

New-salem March. 22. 1777

dear brother in y Lord - tis a Long while since I
rote to you - yet I Visit you often - I hant been
sleep - Jesus gives me too many blows for that -
I Live for scarcely any thing but to Suffer - I
hant preacht for month^{through vital weakness} - I can write or read but
a few words at a time through weakness of head
and eyes -

why was this life for misery made
or why drawn out so long
is there no room among the dead
or is a wretch too young - watts

But stay - Shall I receive good at the hands of god
and Shall I not receive evil - all the days of my
appointed time will I wait till my change come -

brother you can serve god and Souls - I have made
such poor work at it the Lord will have me at it
no longer - but by his grace I will make it up
in suffering with patience - I am some times in
a streight betwixt two - and some times I stand
shivering as on Jordan's brink fearing the command to
launch away - yet sometimes it is come Lord Jesus
come quickly - but O how many heart strings are
yet tyed about this world - methinks they might all
have let go e'er now - but unripe fruit is hardly beaten
from the twigg and unripe wheat from the chaff - good
od continue thy pains for my soul cleaveth to the dust.

as to the state of religion among us - the tide is gone down
elp Lord for the godly man weatheth &c. all seek their
own &c. O that my head were waters &c. but why
shoud a living man complain - all shall bring about
tions good for the Lord dwells in her and he that shall
come will come and will not tarry - amen. even so come
Lord Jesus. these few lines out of much more that I
have within I have written that I might be refreshed &c. a

S. Bigelow

For
M^r. Isaac Backus
in
Middleborough
these —

Bigelow's Copy

Mar. 22. 1777.

Recd. May 18.

9. 73.

New-salem June 6. 1781

Age and beloved Eld^r. I received your most affectionat Letter of March y^d 2^d, and was not a little refreshed, to hear of the triumphs of the Redeemer in your parts; I am waiting with expectation to see it in this barren desert; a few drops as an earnest we have had, and a Shower I expect to follow in due time; Jesus hath given me comfortable grounds to hope for this &c. I was a little put out with you for your letter to this Chh. heretofore but you have more than made it up in your stth; pardon my childish weaknesses, which are much encreased on some accounts by my bodily disorders &c. — I have nothing remarkable to speak of excepting that we raised a frame for a meeting house last Monday, which a very considerable handfull undertook to build, but have been in a remarkable manner owned and blessed both with resolution and success. it is a time of prevailing health and outward prosperity. we have comfortable religious meetings. I preach once twice on Lords days. Eld^r. Alden is to preach us at one of the clock this day. my love to your ly and all Inquiring friends. Farewell. S. Bigelow

Wd. 43 igelau's
Peta. June 6. 1781.

Recd. July 19.

J. B.

Widdelborough. Shuf.

in

Dr. Isaac Backus

Shir

...plain & sweet use a mature crown so
New-Jersey Aug. 31. 1782

Beloved Eld. and bro. ~~in~~ in the Lord. It is with
pleasure, I once more send you a few lines, as
a fresh token of continued affection. I am a poor
weak creature in body; but through divine good-
ness strong in the faith. I am little more than a
waiting servant; but it is all right: they that
through weakness were left behind to abide by the
tent, had an equal share of the spoil with them
that through strength went on till compleat victo-
ry was won. 1 Sam. 30. 24.

I have little of any thing remarkable to tell
you of in this place. There has been a glorious
display of divine power and grace, in some
parts near us in months past, especially in
Hartwick & Greenwich. There is some tokens
of the Lords presents among us, in quickning
his people of late, and some souls under concern.
Bro. Crocker of late has been brought from the
north country, and seems to have had a new con-
version. I had almost lost him as a Christian, and
had quite forsaken us in affection, and was about
to ^{do it} in practice, but the Lord has so returned his capti-
vity and united us, that the joy ^{I had} in it had like to have
broke the earthen vessel. It is a time of general
health among us, but a melancholy time on account

of the want of natural rain. My love to your
family and all Inquiring friends. your friend and
brother in the Lord. Sam^l Bigelow.

Eliza Bigelow
Ctts. Aug. 31. 1982.

Rec'd. Wm.
J. J. J.

For
M^r Isaac Backus
in

the
Middleborough
Shops

Rec'd. May 18.

New-Jersey Sep. 4 26. 1783.

Sincere friend. Having a fair opportunity, I send you a few lines one more, expecting a return by the bearer, to this & my last. I have nothing new since my last. I cannot but hope the devil has formed his last engine, and is making his last attempt against the little city, but he cannot take it, tho' there were none in it, but sick & wounded like me. I thought when the Identical Lady and her company appeared, it was the height of diabolical delusion, but this Scheme of Universal Salvation, I think is a greater depth of Infernal policy, because so completely calculated to suit the carnal mind, yet I cant but wonder that a christianized person should fall in with it, seeing it so bare facedly put the lie upon the God of truth, and is so naturally calculated to lead men off from allegiance to him. When that Scheme first made its appearance in these parts I was groaning under a heavy cross, just hinted in my last, but when I saw the devil erect this battery against the truth, I quite forgot my cross, and want of strength. I believe I know a little how Stripping David felt, when Goliath made his Gigantic appearance and defied the armies of Israel. I did not fear to leave my domestick affairs in the hands of the keeper, and with my sling & stones shew myself in opposition. The good old way never appeared more plain & sweet, nor a martyrs crown so glorious, or I so willing to seal the truth with my blood; but our greatest damage is not from this quarter, but from within ourselves: we are not what we pretend to be. There are, that want to be Chh. members and live

after the manner of this vain world, depending on a
dead faith, who would have Christ's house a house of
liberty for men to go and come when they please, with
~~little~~ little or no account for their conduct; they would
give up themselves to the Lord & to his Chr, by solemn
covenant, and promise obedience, but it is, I go I? but
go not, or go when they please, and stand still or go back
when they please, or walk in what manner they please.
A Minister, if he will preach powerfully & feelingly
may have many hearers, if he can live on the people's
eulogiums, and cloath himself & family with their
good wishes, and once in a while a private gift as
an alms or the like. I have long time holden my
peace about these things, and mourn'd for my folly
in setting out on the plan I did, on several accounts,
especially, the Improvement of gifts, Subjection of
members to the body, too scant examination of mem-
bers when received, too slack a discipline, and respecting
Ministers maintenance. These things have made me
sorrow and trouble, as well as some others with me.
But I am resolv'd to hold my peace no longer, come
what will, but show the house to the house of Israel,
and set the wood, hay & stubble on fire, and let it
burn up, and suffer loss, and be saved so as by
fire, and build according to the pattern I have
seen in the mount. I have nothing to gain
nor lose. My compleat character is. A
Tyrant, Arbitrary, Lord North, one understanding

of
fan
bo

rule and order, unfit to be a teacher, the
best preacher in these parts, qualified for a
pastor, knowing nothing how to lead, a fool,
superior to Dr. Gill, a hireling, the cheapest
preacher that ever was, Squeaky, lazy, an
honest person if any there is, one that means
well, conceited of my knowledge, mad with zeal,
but one that every one thinks will come off
well at last. Now Dr. bro: if there is another
such a person in the universe I want him for a yoke
fellow. However these things all work well, some
purgative, Cathartick, some Emmetick, some Stomachic,
and some Diaphoretick. Yet if I had not
opened my mouth unto the Lord and can not go back
I would proceed no further. O that I could find
a Phenice harbour, till these Winter Storms
were overblown! But bonds and afflictions
must await me. But what need I care, if my
way be rough my shoes are to be Iron & brass.
I need not tell you what I want you should pray
that I may have, you know already, but pray
most that I may have prudence, moderation and
fortitude with stability. I think my lot is in
a difficult part of the vineyard. Our garden
is very weedy, and some of them very rank, yet
there are a few little beds of spices in better order.
I wonder sometimes why the Lord of the vineyard
should set such a feeble unskillful dresser to tend
such a spot, and have been looking a long while

Wm. L. Garrison
London & Co.
N.Y.C.

Thus

Middleborough.

27ⁿ Jac. Bachus.

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out. s.
S. B.

Wm. Bigelow
Letter, Sep. 26. 1883.

PROVIDENCE, Sept. 27, 1783

PROPOSALS,
For Printing, by Subscription,
The SECOND VOLUME of a
HISTORY
OF
NEW-ENGLAND.

C O N T A I N I N G

A Distinct Account of the RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS of the Country, as to Doctrine and Practice, Declension and Revivals, Oppression and Liberty, from 1690 to 1784; including a concise View of the AMERICAN WAR, and of the Conduct of the BAPTISTS therein, with the present State of their CHURCHES.

By **ISAAC BACKUS,**

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Samuel Bigelow. For Six.

~~Samuel Bigelow. For Six.~~

To Ed^r. Backus. D^r. S^r. I have had poor fortune in getting subscribers, and it is owing to several causes. My bodily weakness & confinement, has

first year, a relation equal, the young

Post. Truly, &c. I am heart sick of much of the stuff in our little Chambers, and am resolved to get away from it as fast as I can and not be hindered by any means; but I would take regular steps, be moderate & sober, hear and consider advice, obey my father, & be subject to my mother, go in and out by the door, keep my place & station, do the work I am set about, and muddle not with others matters, but leave all events to the Lord, and this I am a strong blessing on. I hope none will give the work a wrong touch.

at loose ends, and be every one doing his own thing, or such as want things to be
own absolute judges in circumstances and make the
forward feelings & conscience their rule, or to be their
the Lord with that which cost them nothing, or to make
ever wanted to go and come when they please, or to serve
opposition; but the opposers are chiefly such as have
(Numbers). About 90 of these partisans have made a great
mult of verbal numbers & opposition of numbers to others
changes. Admission of members, exclusion of members, treat-
(Ch. discipline, Ministers maintenance with other religious
subjection, Ch. meetings, the point which is the point of
expected our sentiment (according to present light) about
away. We have felt in upwards of 70 particulars
of all consequence to us and we mean to put them
irregular & unsystematic notions, that have been
we think we entered at first setting out some words
regulations and the manners and customs of Ch. house.
and we think further light has been given respecting Ch.
have them better observed. We covet to follow right
putting any new meaning upon them, but trying to
not altering our covenant and articles of faith, nor

X Such as get out of their place in improving their gifts
and subjects them ^{not} to the body and act upon the authority
of the command, and go in the Church's fellowship, and not
upon impressions, or specialties as some call it; the women learn-
ing in silence with all subjection. Also that a Ch. ought
not to receive or retain any, it who are not of a teachable
and submissive disposition, but stubborn and self-willed, who
will be ever troublers of it and striking at her septer.
Also such as are so weak and ignorant as not to know how to
behave themselves in a Ch. and so conceited, set and scrupulously
conscientious as that they will not learn; setting up will and
calling it conscience, and won't see otherwise, and when
all their objections are answered, and their foundation wholly
taken away, will renew the same arguments and stand upon
nothing, which has been seen amongst us time and again. We
are not meddling with other Churches matters, but tending our
own vineyard and wish that all our sisters about us would do
the same, and take care of their own members and see how
they behave and what they are doing. I have been pained at
heart sometimes and wondered what my fathers & brethren in the
Ministry, and their flocks were about, when I have seen some of
their particular number, walking as sheep that no man took up or
called to an account. It made me think: out of sight out of mind.
Prov. 27. 23. Man. 16. 1. O that this were our constant practice. S. R.
of sober behaviour in all the

not altering our covenant and articles of faith, nor putting any new meaning upon them, but trying to have them better observed. We covenant to follow light and we think further light has been given respecting the regulations and the manners and customs of Church house. We think we embraced at first setting out some well irregular & unsatisfactory separate notions, that have been of ill consequence to us, and we mean to put them away. We have lately in upwards of 70 particulars expressed our sentiments (according to present light) about Subjection, Ch. meetings, the public worship of God, Ch. discipline, Ministers maintenance with other religious charges, admission of members, exclusion of members, treatment of excommunicated members & disposition of members to other Churches. About 50 of these particulars have made a great opposition, but the opposers are chiefly such as have ever wanted to go and come when they please, or to serve the Lord with that which cost them nothing, or to make inward feelings & conscience their rule, or to be their own absolute judges in circumstances and make the Ch. members many Masters, or such as want things to be at loose ends, and be every ones husbands and no bodies, or such as would have nothing among the people that the standing order have (the it should be right) or such as would exclude slave, Apostles & Cephas, and be all for Christ &c. But all this strengthening and engages us the more to go on, the we expect it will bring us to a glorious company. And for one soul I believe that it would be for the good of our constitution to have such a resolution go through it. There are too many followers for the leaves in these quarters. I thought when I became a baptist, they were a set that all acted upon principles of truth, justice and equity, and were all true to the cause, but I have not found so, I think that selfishness, hypocrisy, bitterness, egotism, opposition to leaders, a bound among us as well as other sects, and we have need of purging to prevent another separation. I believe that the Gospel give no toleration for any one to be in a gift of Christ, but such as evidence by their life and conversation in the world, that they are not of it, or that don't keep their place and come up to all Gospel duties in the particular Churches under whose care they have put themselves, submitting all doubts about circumstances to the decision of a major vote in a legal Ch. meeting, and bearing their equal part of all the Churches business in such a manner as it shall judge most agreeable to the Gospel, for it is

X Such as get out of their place in improving their gifts and subjects them ^{not} to the body and act upon the authority of the command, and go in the Churches fellowship, and not upon impressions, or specialties as some call it; the women learning in silence with all subjection. We put a Ch. ought

CONDITIONS.

I. The Book will contain about 350 Pages, in large Octavo, printed on a good Paper and Letter, at One Dollar and an Half each bound, with a seventh gratis to those who take six; the Money to be paid when the Books are delivered.

II. As soon as sufficient Encouragement appears, it will be put to the Press, and be finished with all convenient Speed, and public Notice be given thereof.

Samuel Bigelow. ~~for~~ for Six.

~~Samuel Bigelow~~

To Eld. ^r Backus. Dⁿ S^r I have had poor fortune in getting Subscribers, and it is owing to several causes. My bodily weakness & confinement, has

been a great hindrance. The great scarcity of currency, and the little

help of having done my duty under my circumstances.

S. Bigelow

New-Salem Dec^r 29. 1793

Worthy friend. I receiv'd your obliging letter by Sister Samson, and found all things in it very agreeable, only I perceiv'd you had mistook me in something, or had been misinformed by others: I judge the latter. We are

Dr. Bigelow.
Jan. 20. 1793.

Recd. Jan.
1784.
J. B.

Eld. Isaac Backus

Middleborough, Thos

Dear friend, I received your obliging letter by sister
 Hanson, and found all things in it very agreeable, only
 I perceive you had mistook me in something, or had been
 misinformed by others: I judge the latter. We are

Self of having done my duty under my circumstances.
 St. Augustine

Middleborough
 Mass.

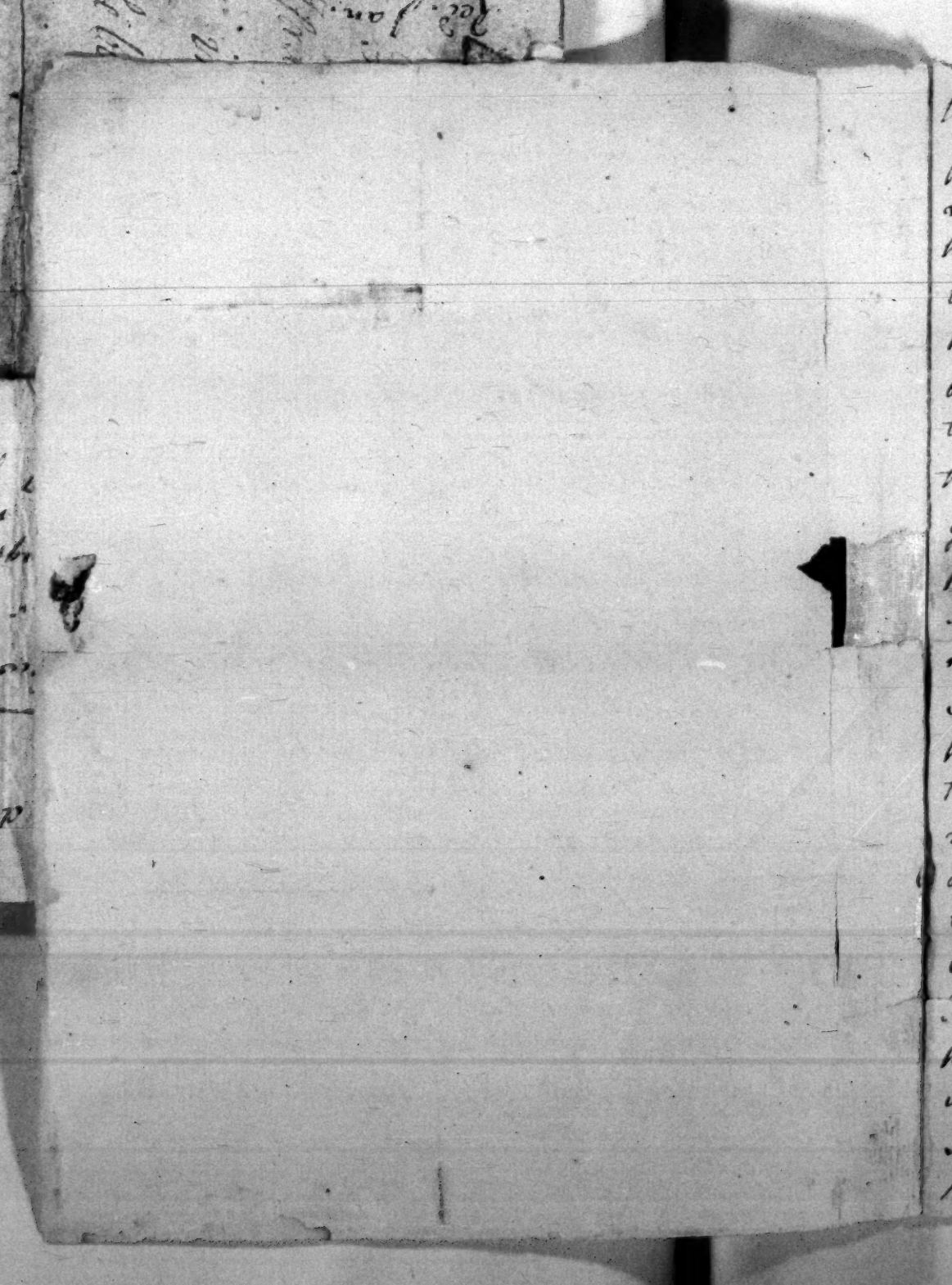
John James Burdick

in

Recd. Jan. 1484
 J. B.
 Recd. Aug. 1483
 J. B.

New-salem Oct. 7th 1763

Honoured Brother, permit me to visit you with a third letter since the commencement of the last month. I am in a comfortable state for me, soul and body. I have good news to tell you, since my letter by Capt. Samson & his wife. I bapt. 3 persons last Lords day, all of one family, Inhabitants of Peterfham, the father, a son about 16 years old & a daughter about 10, their experiences were so clear that not a question was asked them, they were all lambs of the first year, a relation equail^d the young woman, it is thought was never heard, they were born in a dark corner, and with little outward advantages, yet they seemed to be grown to a manly stature, not the least flightyness appeared, but much solemnity and gravity, with fruitfulness of understanding, we had a large congregation collected from six towns (including this) it was a refreshing time to Gods people, and of sober behaviour in all. they all three joined this Chh, with two others by letter, and a pleasing addition it ~~was~~ was.



What further seems encouraging, is that the people seem to be stirring up to their duty in respect of my outward support, wherein they have been very negligent, and I have delt plainly with them about it and they have took it kindly, except such as want to make use of liberty for a cloke of covetousness, or act upon their feeling as the rule of duty, however, I think that light doth increase, and understandings grow more fruitful, yet we want much purging from many childish notions, flightyness, and old seperate notions, which the first stock were much more inclined to, than those brought in, in latter reformatiions, but I have had the chief hand in these difficulties, which make me bear it the better, but I am resolved on reformation and regulation, and to get the middle way if I can, and I am in hopes yet, of winning Phenice harbour before old boreas awakes with his Orion bands to bind the sweet Influence of the Pleiades. May peace be in Zions walls and prosperity in her palaces, her priests cloathed with salvation, her provisions blessed, and her saints shout aloud for joy. So prays your unworthy brother in y. Love. S. Bigelow

Dr. Bigelow

Oct. 15. 1983.

For

Recd. Oct. 19.

Dr. Isaac Hawkins . \$13.

Middleborough, Mass

in favour of Mr. —

Jonathan Smith.



New-Jersey Sept. 13. 1783.

O & beloved friend. I recd. your refreshing letter
bro. Leonard, but have had no opportunity till now,
make a return. I have in the summer past been won-
derfully strengthened to preach of Gospel; it has been sweet
to you know ^{much} more about it than I do, but I do love
each when I cant help it. At present I am very
weak in body, but my Inner man is better on it.

good for me to be afflicted: I learn obedience by the
as I suffer; but I have had a trial this year that
unparelled by any trials heretofore. It made me
think of Abraham. Gen. 22. 1. Read Psal. 22. 16. 17.
apply it to us. 2 Sam. 23. 6.

I have been
often turned up by the roots, and inclin'd to say, all
things are against me. I thought I knew ~~the~~ the
hard feelings of holy Job, mention'd in 7th Chap.
especially from 11th verse to the end. O the remains of
old covenant spirit, and if want of more of that upon.
Psal. 41. 11.

But I can say my redeemer liveth and
shall be my rock. My heaviest trials now, are for
the Lord. Professors walk disorderly, and in great conformity
to this world, our light dont shine as it ought. I think
our discipline is too slack, and there is a great backward-
ness to reformation work. I fear our doors are not shut
close enough, and that too many stony ground hearers
get in, and enlightend hypocrites: after fruits, give ground

for such fears, of many in these parts. Faith without
works is dead. O for that day mentioned Zecha. 14. 21
& Amos. 9. 13. The professors in general among us
love good preaching & praying, & to sing hymns & spiritual
songs, but little zeal for the laws, ordinances, customs &
manners & strict discipline of Christ's house, and to be a saint
that loves his brother as himself, is a rarity: but I must
forebear. Remember me and mine to all Inquiring friends.
Yours. Samuel Bigelow.

P.S. I want to know if Dr. Gill on Sol. songs, the
Prophecy, and the revelations, could be got by themselves
and what they would cost. I want to get them.

Middleborough
Jas Backus

Nov

Nov. 9. 1833.

Dr. S. Bigelow's
Letter. Dec. 3. 1833.

New-falem Aug. 16. 1784

D^r bro^r in J^L, could I visit you in person
and spend a few days with you, I would esteem it
of more value then the wrighting of a dozen sheets,
but being that cannot be, I gladly write you this
half sheet. I am much confined by my bodily
weakness, and kept from doing much that I would;
but it is all right. My intellectuals were never in
a better state: their disadvantages from my
weak state of body are much made up other ways.
I feel more of the Spirit of Adoption & a child like
temper then ever I did, in so steady & constant
a manner. I enjoy solid peace & comfort, and
take a sweet delight in serving God: I am able
to preach once & twice a week, and I can read &
right better then for many months past. My
mind is continually travailing, almost day & night,
I sleep much like the birds, short naps & easily
waked. If you would know the line of travail,
my mind has been concieved in for this twelve
months past, you may read the following texts.
viz- Psal. 1. 1. 2. 3. 2 Pet. 1. 5. 6. 7. Jam. 1. 2. 5. 26. 27.
Heb. 6. 1. & 12. 1. 2. John. 14. 1. 2. 14. Ephe. 5. 21.
& 6. 4. Phil. 2. 12. 1 Thys. 5. 17. Col. 4. 5. Thom.
16. 17. 1 Cor. 5. 7. & 11. & 9. 7. 14. Gal. 6. 6. 2 Thys.
3. 6. with many others of the like indty

I have seen [the year past] more than ever before
a need of preaching, Second Table duties & pressing
them home, and I have felt a necessity laid
upon me to do it, and have found the command-
ments exceeding broad, and the law very spiritual.
I felt the hand of the Lord constantly upon me,
and as if I was doing my last work; for some
weeks successively I took my leave of the place
and people every sermon I preached. My preach-
ing has been commended in words, but my cry, is,
Lord who has believed the report and to whom is
the arm of Lord been revealed; yet I have had
this to comfort me. viz. that I had preached the
preaching the Lord bid me, without desiring to
be a man pleasing preacher, and some few souls
were led thereby; but such is the state of things
among us as to matters of practice that I am come
to a total stand, respect Chh. Fellowship & commun-
ing at the Lords Table, for if I must go forward
in those duties as things now are or be excluded
Chh. privileges, I sincerely & conscientiously choose
the latter; for I think our constitution is such
as that King self & Lord covetousness are allowed
to live & thrive under a clove of pretended liberty
of conscience; and this is not all, but there is
a growing carelessness about watchfulness & a holy
life, and resting on a empty faith; outward profession

and past experience, all which are contrary to the known laws of Christ's house. The falling away of some who made a great appearance at first, has put me as hard to it almost, as the prosperity of the wicked did Saphir. Psal. 73. and the great conformity of others has almost persuaded ^{me} that it is best to keep our experiences to ourselves and to the few who don't so desire to file their garments, and say nothing in public about them. Soon after my ordination, I baptised a person, who was no sooner out of the immersion than he stretch his hands towards heaven & spent ten or 15 minutes in doxologies to the trinity; I thought it a heavenly rapture that would be followed with a most exemplary life, but I soon saw, a great warping off and neither a forbearing, confessing or forgiving temper, and I have seen nothing a long while but what grows in nature's garden. He is the 2^d time excluded ~~from the church~~. This with many others of the like nature, has made me set much less by great frames either in myself or others and lay ~~off~~ much less stress upon experiences till I can see the after fruits, and to be most suspicious of a cheat where there is the biggest glittering, and to be more critical in examining & strict in watching & disciplining, and resolute to have such as profess to stand fast, persevere & press forward or purged out. Thus you have a few hints of my present standing, farewell for this time. Yours, in Gospel bonds. S. Bigelow

Post. When I signed for the six books
of our 2. Volum of history, I had got but
two signers; & have no more yet. I had then a
fair prospect before me of being able to pay for
them if I had no signers, and I thought I would
run my chance & keep the peoples credit a little,
and I intended to have had those other books I
wrote to you about; But an unforeseen turn
in providence has reduced me to great straits,
and which way I shall fulfill my engagement for
the books I know not at present. I give you this
hint, that if I should not send the money presently
so soon as I know the books are out, you may know
there is a necessary cause. I have spent for my
daily needs, more than 40 dollars of the little intrist
I had when you laid hands on me; besides other helps
and none dare charge me nor mine with any defi-
ciency in earning or spending, but I am re-
solved to spend no more of the principle till the
people spend with me, without standing faithfully
for my right, and bear oppos'd testimony against
serving the Lord with that which costs nothing.
One great smile in divine providence I would just
mention. This Society has their part (according to
to their valuation in the common tax bill) of the
intrist arising from the sale of a Ministry right of
land. I received last year. 6. 8. 6. Lawd. and expect
the same this. I was sent to Boston two years ago
last fall. about it, by the select men of this town, and

(some any weight on
my mind I should have returned as I went. My still men & bro. Parker of
New ton were my friends.)

New Salem. Aug. 31. 1787

Sincere friend. I have not forgot my agreeable
correspondance with you, altho' I have neglected
it for some time: reasons I could give.

I am in the best state of bodily health I have
had for many years, and not uncomfortable in
my mind, and I hope these lines will find you
and yours enjoying every favour.

Spiritual things are at a very low ebb here.
There is little brotherly love, and zeal for the
Cause of the blessed Redeemer. — Church travail
and ordinances have ceased ever since the people
ribs in arms against government, and
division has took place, tho' at present we
are better united as to publick worship, but
not as to Chh. privileges. — I have got
a full and final dismission from this Chh.
and people as their Pastor, tho' at present
I continue labouring with them as a teacher,
and know not but I shall still continue.

preaching & praying, & to sing hymns & spiritual
but little zeal for the same.

There is a general good agreement (as to public
worship) between me and the body of this people.
and we enjoy some sensible tokens of the divine
presence in public worship. There are some
who seem daily quickened, and some seem to be
sincere seekers. Our congregation this summer
has been as large as usual, and composed of
different sects, and there appears in general
a very good attention to the preached word,
but ~~no~~ abiding effects on very few. —

I have said but little about the family quarrel
that has been the past year in this commonwealth,
but what I have said has been to condemn both
sides. I think the political fathers have provoked
their children to wrath, and by oppression wife
men have been mad, the children have been unruly
and rebellious, turbulent and riotous. I think
that all who have had any hand in either beginning,
or carrying on, aiding or assisting in the quarrel
have acted out of character, and especially such

if chance & heat the peoples cools a little.

as make no profession that our denomination
does, and I think that such of our denomina-
tion as have had a hand in ^{it} are deepsett in guilt,
and have fallen most out of character, and I
think that the blood that has been shed in the
quarrel will be required of all, on both sides,
who have had any hand in beginning, carrying
on, aiding or assisting in the matter, therefore
I chuse to be deprived of special ordinances
while I live rather than take them with any on
either side, till they repent, turn from, and
confess their sin of shedding blood wrongfully.

I cannot attend the next Association, tho I much
want to. — I received your letter and the
minutes, by the hand of brother Croker, and
thank you kindly for the favor, and as you
sent me two more than I paid for, I am indebted
to you for them, and determine to pay you the
first time I can. — Your friends are generally
well in these parts. — With due respect to
you & yours, with all enquiring friends, I
subscribe myself yours in J. L. Samuel Bigelow.

of which gave me no refreshment: I

Dearest I have written credentials and a good recommendation to preach the Gospel at large, for I came to an agreement with this people to have my dismission from them, and tho I am still labouring here, yet I should be glad to labour in a place where the people and I was of one mind in all things, if I knew where it was and had an open door. I suppose there will be neither letter nor messenger from this Chh. to the association this year, for I hear nothing at present about it. —

Willeborough — Sept.

in

Rev Isaac Backus

Dear Sir

S. B. 3.

Recd Sept 7. 30 —

Recd Aug. 31. 1784

Newfalem Feb^y 12. 1790

Aged friend — I received your letter and pamphlet, by Miss Samson; the reading of which gave me no refreshment: I think the time spent in wrighting and reading them may be set among our blanks, much more the time spent in laying a foundation for such improvements. —

I expect in a little while to see father H & B lie as quietly together in Abrahams bosom, as M^r Flavel's two birds which he shot fighting in the air, did in his hand when they were dead.

I can wish to see in both my aged fathers, and feel in myself, more of the temper of the Sweet Spirited Calvin: Who could say; let Luther call me, dog, or devil; I will say of him, he is a precious servant of Jesus Christ: I believe such a Spirit would

produce better effects than the temper I too
often feel in myself, and think I can often
see in the best — I cannot (without contracting
guilt) spend time in remarking on your long
letter, and its concomitant pamphlet; only I
think it duty to remind you of one mistake:
viz. — putting the ceasing of our correspondence
~~there~~ by letter, on my side ^{first}, whereas it
ceased on your side first, for I have not had a
letter from you before, for this four years
last Feb^y, and your letter don't make it but
two year since I had dropped it &c. —

But as I would wish to cultivate Love and
unity, and ^{not} alienation, I shall drop all those
matters of dispute and tell you a little good
news from this far country, which will be
like cold water to thirsty souls among you.

This part of Zion has scarcely ever been without
a few scattering drops of the rain of righteouf-
ness; but about six weeks ago the Lord began
to rain such a shower as has never fallen in
these parts before, and it still continues:

It is chiefly on the youth from, 10 to 20.
The people in general, in, and about this
Society are bow'd before it. A goodly
number are hopefully gather'd in; some
from almost every family: Among whom
are George & Alice Saffron. — There is some
shaking among the dry bones in Ruttebury:
Also in the remotest parts of this town; in the
dark regions about bro^r. S. Eatons (I trust
you have heard his wife has gone home) but
the work meets with more opposition that
way, but it is but just begun, I hope it
will continue till all the Jerico walls are
flat. — Bro^r. Butler is principle labourer
here now. I am discharged from this people
in the fellowship of a mutual council,
upon honourable terms, and it is expected
that bro^r. Butler will be my successor,
and if I should have ability for further la-
bour, the most likely place at present is
at Brookfield. — The people here have united
in bro^r. Butler on the same plan I have been after:
only on titer terms: I have laboured and another
has entered into my labours. — He hath done
all things with your? S. Bigelow —

Jan. 1. 1890.
Feb. 12. 1790.
Recd. Mar. 8.

L. 13.

Mr. Isaac Bachus

Middleborough

~~in favor of Mr. Bachus~~

New Salem Dec^r. 11. 1790.

Much esteemed friend - Your last was App. 12th to which I have sent no return - opportunities of writing and conveying are seldom with me now - I intended before to have seen you at our last Association, but disappointments prevented. - Was it not too tedious a journey I should pay you a visit, for I know not as ever I wanted to see you more then now - I lately saw M^r. Hemmels Sermons on the atonement, and your remarks on ~~it~~ ^{them} - M^r. Hemmels book I could not like well enough to keep in my house, tho' I had bought it. Yours I liked much better, but thought M^r. H. was not so fully refuted as I expected to see, and wished you would write again. - Eld^r. Butler, who labours here, is full with M^r. H. and strenuously exhibits a number of tenets new to me, and so disagreeable that I have done hearing him till he will leave insisting on them in publick, in such a strenuous and bigotted manner. I think it has not tended for peace and unity here, but the contrary. Much that is new to me has taken place here in the past year. it is said to be a further degree of light let into the Chh. but I (and others) have not had eyes to see it. If it be all of God it will stand, if not that will come to nought.

There has been a work of God here, and a considerable number has been added to this Chh, but there has been much confusion & discord, and is yet. The body of this Chh, with the assistance of the Society call a council against me last June: They sent to 9 Chh's, & 7 sent. My moral character was impeach'd. The Chh's met and invited me to join and have it a mutual one, I declined, and gave my reasons. They formed, and opened a door for any person who soever to bring in any thing against me that they could prove by moral evidence, and the door forever to be shut after. Two days was spent in hearing and answering accusations before a numerous auditory. The 3. day P. M. the council brought in their report and read it publicly, and tho' it was the doings of a party council I had not an objection to make but fell in with it immediately, but it was very mortifying to those that called it, so that they came to the eve of being thrown out of fellowship by their own council, but they finally fell in, and it was hoped that an agreeable union was brought about, the council left me in as good standing as I

desired, and faulted me no more than I faulted myself.
This union continued about a fortnight, and new disputes
arose, and yet remain. My first and greatest ac-
cuser was Capt. Goodale, at whose house I was ordained.
but he was so convinced of his wrong before I counselled,
and broken down that he made all the christian
satisfaction I or any desired, and put as much
honour upon me as he had try'd to put disgrace.
and remains a steady and faithful friend yet,
tho' others who joined with him are nearly as
disaffected as ever, without any other cause
then he has had, but none who had wronged me
appeared so much humbled and sorry for it as
he did. — I now preach occasionally in this
place, and in several other places, but my present
call seems chiefly among the people where Mr.
Dennis was Minister. Their Meeting-house is
about 7 miles off from me, in a corner of
Hardwich adjoining Peterham & Greenwich,
finely accommodated for a large society. —
I have led a private life much of my time the
year past, and much recovered my health thereby.
With due respects to your family & all enquiring friends,
I subscribe your. in y bonds of y Gospel. S. B. Ge. low

Sam^l Bigelow,
Dec. 11. 1890

For Rec^d Jan. 28, 1891.
S. B.

Edw^d James Buchanan

in

Middleborough. Mass.

Thirsk Lane,

Mar. 14. 1891.

S. B.

is a place where the people and I was at one time.

Feb. 13th 52. Loving and dear Brother
hoping these lines will find you well thro
and good as I am - at this time being at
home being one of your friends men I take this
opportunity to let you know and from me
and your friends at Norwich your dear and
mother here been very sick even to death
but has recovered her health again and your
winds are all well. at this present time
glory be to god Zion god rains our Church
is watered with the dew of heaven and to
sister Catey was admonished and is recovered
and is at work at ~~the~~ London. great numbers flock
to hear the word time ~~and~~ fails
my love to you and your dear wife and
your dear Church praying god to bless you
and strength you to hold one a breath or
two more and we shall get thura when
sick and sorrow will trouble us no more give
for me and so I remain your friend and
brother —

John Birchard Smith.

To His Love & Consideration

This was brought
 by Isaac Beck
 of New York
 Apr 12. 1752
 Isaac Beck

To Mr
 Isaac Beckers
 at Crig Water
 From J. Beckers
 at New York
 April 1. 1752

John Beckers
 Letter April 1
 1752.

Elder & Dear Sir

I have some acquaintance
with you tho' not worthy of your Esteem,
yet take the liberty and beg pardon
for this Serail, when I consider your ability,
At some what a pollijiges for my love to
you, when I was in Virginia with our dear land
I saw and heard of you preach, and still
believe your gift was of the Lord, young
preachers are often blissh, but the Establish
ing is from wisdom, and that to the pull
ing down the Strong holds of Sin and
tatan, Could you visit us again in
the Lord, we would Humbly hope his
Blessing. Tho' Your advanced Age does
not seem to Expect it, yet be you
well assured you have many admirers,
The Schurn of Persecution is hard to be
under stood, but you give light to
the blind, we want more light, tho' we
do not make use of what wisdom
haints see, a Right Understanding leads
to Right Motives, but how hard the Natural

Man of Sissamunt, I have large Congregation
Sometimes Oh, Brother that there was
the affect which have appear in
our Assemblys, I would stood apposed
to Christ but now could I see his
kingdom flourish, I should hope for
some of your prayers, ~~of~~ ^{of} Mol Vis. to
from you, I am much affected but still
My affections would be abated, was
his forming amongst us more manifest
Oh that the Lord would be pleased
to send forth faithful labourers
into his Vineyard, Some years past
we had a little heaven, in brother ^{Waller} ~~Waller~~
Brother's lands Old Church is with
them, young Brother Waller nephew
To the Elder who has succeeded, his
Increase has bin somewhere a hundred
died, in a little more than a year, these
things have an encouraging appearance,
we are in hopes through the Lord's grace

27
for a Raial Union, Our brethren have
a good degree of the Spirit of love,
and Humbly hope for more, May the
Rich abundance of the Lord Crown his
Churches with his glorious Kingdom
of Righteousness, and your labours
Dear Sir, ^{with} his Divine presence, that your
last days may be your best days,
and you to have the plaudit of our
Divine Master, Right to me, and I
Hope to love you on Earth and in
Heaven

Aaron Bliss —

Orange c. H April the 7. 1797

John Eschloe
Apr. 24. 1799.

Rec. June 28.
John Eschloe

Answered July 6. 1799.

Isaac Jacobus

John Willhelms

State of Mass. to

by John Warrum

So

Geo. Isaac Barber Middleborough

State of Massachusetts

Engraved 10000

Shaftsbury October 7th 1797

Kind and Dear Sir

Indulge me to trouble you with a few lines to which
I pray you send me an answer by the bearer Br Bish-
ham. You have probably seen the new plans of the
Vermont Association adopted by their Convention in
January 1796 this plan has occasioned great debates and
divisions in that Association, at their last Session they
had requested Brethren from other Associations to ad-
-vise with them, but there appeared no support of
any thing but a division among themselves ~~and~~
~~by which it was that they should choose a committee wholly~~ it
both parties had their plans formed. it appeared however
to those of other Associations present, that altho the great
point in debate was the power to be vested in the Association
yet there was no essential difference in their two plans
in that particular.

I then earnestly urged that they should choose a committee
wholly of other Associations and give them the two plans and
try to form one that should accommodate the whole which
was agreed to from concerned as one for this committee in
this I want some of your advice

For these debates the following questions came in to view

- 1 Is it consistent with gospel rule for a church to
give fellowships and receive in to sister relations other
Churches by empowering her delegates to act for her
in this matter in an annual Association
- 2 If so why ought she not to empower her dele-
-gates to clear that fellowships by receiving such
Churches as become corrupt.
- 3 If this is right how can it be done without hearing
the grounds of complaint and admitting the parties
to speak for themselves

4 If this is not right how can this kind of fellowship
be so cleared as to do honour to the ^{cause} of Religion in
the world.

5 Is it right to drop a Church or a minister from our
visible fellowship and caution others to be ware of &
them merely from the report of a Council without
hearing the cause or admitting the delinquents to
speak in their own defence.

6 Is it safe for an Association to by their minutes
to hold up to the world a Brother in their fellow-
ship as a gospel minister merely because an
individual Church has sent him a delegate
in that profession without any other means of
satisfaction.

As to some of the above questions I confess I feel my
self at a great loss and so do my Brethren
of the Committee it would be highly gratifying
to us to have your opinions on them before we
attend to our appointment.

Trials on these questions are not new to me I have
ever had my doubts about the propriety of the En-
plan of the Vermont Association tho my name
stands in its forefront. May the Lord give wisdom
in this matter.

The State of Religion is low with us but through
the Lords mercy we are in ^{joy} a good measure peace and
union in the Church.

The Lord has visited my family with a distressing
~~season~~ season of sickness this season, and some of
them remains very low.
Mrs Blood joins with ~~me~~ ^{me} in best respects
to yourself and Mrs Baking.

Yours from your unworthy Brother in gospel
labors

Caleb Blood

Caleb Blood,

Oct. 25. 1797.

Recd. Nov. 11.

D. B.

Answered Nov. 13. 1797.

Middletown Sept^r 11th 1795.

I rec^d. yours of ye 15th of June last. But had it not in my power to answer your Request untill I had attended our yearley Meeting in Hopkintown, which was the last Sabbath in August where I got a Return of the Churches of Our Persuasion, as near as I could.

Pasing over your Mistakes or Omissions in your Second Vol.^m I proceed to say that the Sabbatarian Baptist Church at Newport was Constituted in 1671. Under Mr. Willm. Kijcox. And in 1708. the Church at Westerly was Constituted from the Members of the Church at Newport presiding at Westerly by Mutual Consent in Association with the Church at Newport. In Decemb^r 28th 1779. I was Ordained an Evangelist at the Churches Request which work was appointed to be done about 3 years before but was prevented by reason of the British Army taking possession of the Island at that time. I was Install^d Pastor of the Church at Newport Decemb^r 24th 1780. In 1784 a list was taken of the Members there was then 43 in fellowship. Since that time 25 has been Aded. 7 has Died, 3 transferred and 4 set apart. so that the present Number appears to be 54.

The Church at Hopkintown at present Consists of 462 members Under the Care of Rev John Birdick who was Ordained an Evangelist June 6th 1774 and Install^d Pastor of y^r Church Sep^r 1st 3 1793. at the same time and place Henry Clarke son of there late Eld^r Joshua Clarke was Ordained an Evangelist. also Asa Coon was Ordained an Evangelist the same day. Three Churches have been set of from this Church at Hopkintown in fellowship in 15 years, One at Bristol in Connecticut

11-11-11

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible handwriting throughout.]

Constituted Sept. 1780 formerly under the Care
of Rev. John Davis D.D. of about 70 Members --

A second Church at Petersboure in New York
State of 92 memb^r under the Care of Rev. William
Coon

A third at New London Great Neck of 24. Mem^r
Under the Care of Rev. David Rogers

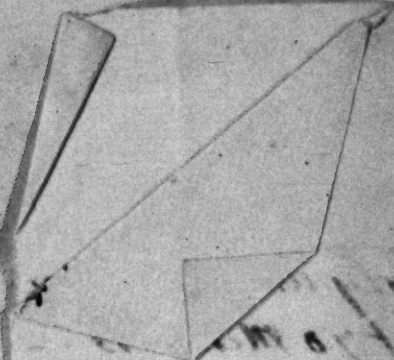
Ed^d Clark has lately moved to Brookfield at y^e United
-lle. in the State of New York where is about 20.
members who meet staidly on the Sabbath for Divine
Worship. and it is Expected they will soon forme
into a Church

I Suppose your History will be confined to New
england. so I have omitted those in the Jerseys
where are three Churches of above 300 Members.
your Subscription paper I omitted to take with
me I propose to send it to Hopkinton where
some wish to be subscribers. if the account of
our Churches should be Published --

I remain with due Respect your Brother
in the best Bonds

Wm Blip

Rev Isaac Backus ----



Confidential Report of the
of the John Smith Co. of about 10 miles
of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles
of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles

1495.
Friday, Sept. 26, 1895.
Account of the
of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles
of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles
of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles

of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles
of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles
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of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles
of the Smith Co. of about 10 miles

Stanford Nov^r 14th 9. 1805

Much Respected & Dear Elder

I thank the Lord
that your Useful Life is yet Continued and I thank
you for Remembering your Unworthy friend and for
your Very friendly and Interesting Letter which you
wrote me on the 19th of August Last the agreeable
therein stated showing the Great Increase of Zion's
Cause in our Happy Land & among them of our
Acquaintance. Rejoice my Poor tried Unbelieving
Heart and when I Look Back on the Fathoms of our
Day I think what Conflicts they have had with
Spiritual wickedness in High Places & now to
see the Great Deliverance God has wrought for
his Gospel Church and then take a View forward
to the still more glorious Day when Jerusalem
shall be made a Praise through the Earth with
what Pleasing Prospects may the Faithful Fathers
in the ministry yield up their Missions with
their breath into the hands of Jesus who has called
and enabled them to be faithful to the death
and my Prayer to ^{Almighty} God is that your Active Life
may not stop at the advanced age of 82 years
But that you may yet Live to see the Increase
of the Redeemer's Kingdom so that you may Rejoice
Longer in Share of the Glory of God and when the
time of your departure from the field of Action
does come that you may be enabled in truth to
say you have fought a good fight & kept
the faith and in the end receive a crown
that fadeth not away you

Speak of your having taken the most Important parts of the History of New England for two Centuries and Reduced them into one Volume I hope it may prove Beneficial to your Self as well as Useful to the world I now have a Number of your other Histories Unsold which I think I had better send to Manning & Loring and most likely shall do it this fall Unless I find a Sale for them here

I Remain as ever your friend
and unworthy Brother in the
truth

John Bolles

P.S. After writing the above I thought to mention Some of the wonderful works of Gods Grace in Parts of this State in the Town of Suffield 18 miles from Hartford in the year past there has been a marvelous Shower of Divine Grace one new Baptist Church in the East part of the Town in fellowship with Elder Hastings & has been Constituted & the members that have been added to Both is more than 100 in Lebanon there has been an extraordinary work a Large meeting House was Built by the Presbyterian People in a Contention among them Selves & After it was done on Account of some dislike to the Party that Built the Presbyterian Ministers Refused to Preach in it and the Committee Applied to the Baptist Association for Preaching & the Lord was Pleased to Bless the Labors of his Servants and Last September there was a Baptist Church Constituted in Gospel order

Under the Pastoral Care of Elder Nehemiah Dodge and
since that time Numbers have been added to the
Church and the Baptist Interest is gaining fast
in them part & in many Places in this State
where the Baptist Principles & People have been &
are still spoken all manner of evil of yet there is
great attention to the word spoken & many Precious
Soul Hopefully Brought to Love the Lord Jesus &
willing to own his despised Cross & follow his Humiliat-
ing Examples that the Lord is carrying on his work
and Raising up & sending forth faithful Laborers
into his Glorious Harvest. Praise on Praise on
O though Prime Ananias with thy Bow &
Crown till the whole shall Crown the Lord
of all to the glory of God the Father I
might continue ~~to~~ ^{your} ~~your~~ ^{formation} But Conclude
ing the good news from your own ^{or old home} State has reached
your ears Before now I shall forbear wishing you
the Pleasure of seeing Zion Rise among your own
Dear People I R

Elder Isaac Barhus
For By the
Rev Stephen J. May
Medbury
Mass

John Rolles.
Nov. 9. 1845.
Dec. 10. —
8. 13.

an Father in Christ with Pleasure I
have this opportunity to write to you I would
glad to see you and have some conversation
& since Providence has so ordered it that I am
kept from you as to body I would converse with
you by way of letter my heart is still with you
& with my Brethren and Sisters in your Church
I wish you ~~the~~ prosperity in your labours for
in Christ's Vineyard and I bless God your
labour has not been in vain in the Lord and
that you have not altogether spent your strength
in that numbers have been brought to the
knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus and felt
the power of that gospel which you have been
preaching to the saving of their souls But
the harvest is still great souls are precious
many are drinking down as or like water the
cup of many wares Cold Eniquity abounds many
see Christ and false prophets are gone out
to the world and man is not apt to seek
after him But this renders him so much more an ob-
ject of pity since labourers are few and James
tells us that the afflictions prevent prayer of
righteous man availeth much we have
encouragement to hearken to the command of
Christ and pray the Lord of the Harvest to
send forth labourers into his vineyard ~~for there~~
there is many people that instead of the
gospel are fed with the dry husks of Dead morality
rather would fill themselves with the husks
which the swine do eat we stand in need of
ministers that will not shun to declare the
whole counsel of God those that will be faithful
and those that are faithful to divide the word
truth and give to every one a portion in due
season though I am ignorant about the work
of a gospel minister I view it to be the greatest
work that ever mortal man was called
I view it to be great yet glorious I view it
to be a warfare that none can go at his own
charges

I have been and still am tried about it
~~it~~ it has been upon my mind for about a
year and eight months and I have passed through
divers operations. Sometimes I feel such a longing
for it that it seems as if I could not be
denied and then again the Cross seems as if it
would sink me. Sometimes I think it is a
temptation to woney my mind at other times
that I am resisting the striving of the
Spirit. But I am so dark in my mind and
so Confused that I cannot determine
the point my way is hedged up. I have never
had any texts of Scripture set home of that
nature but only my mind impressed and
a great Desire that I may with souls to
Christ. I find an inclination in me to
be a great preacher. I am not willing
to be a fool which I find I must be brought
to. I feel uneasy where ever I am. I do not enjoy
my self at all but it appears to me that in
that situation I should be happy though I don't
expect to be free from trials till I have finished
my course. No I esteem that faith good for nothing
that is not a tried one. neither is he fit for
a minister of the Lord Jesus that is not well
acquainted with temptations. What the issue
will be god only knows. and less it would be
to undertake to write all the thoughts of my mind.
I Desire your prayers that I may not
only know my duty but be enabled to do it.
I Desire to be emptied of all self to be filled to
Every thing below a Crucified Saviour and
though I can add nothing to gods essential glory
yet I desire to live to his declarative glory that
I may be found in the way of righteousness and
if god has Determined that such an unworthy
Creature should blow the silver trumpet.

of the gospel that I would give one a single
Eye at his glory and a Price of the worth of Souls
and lay eternally open to view that I may not come
with enticing words of man's wisdom but in the
Demonstration of the Spirit and with power that
I may not grieve my Self but Christ Cru-
cified and my Self the Churches Servant for Jesus
Sake the Fear of man is a dreadful I have to
I look upon boldness a great and necessary qualifi-
cation I have endeavoured humbly though very
Imperfectly to acquaint you of the State of my
mind and though you cannot Deliver me yet
I should Esteem a Letter from you an unmerited
Favour you may have opportunity to send one
If you leave it at our Joshua Taber's the Begin-
ing or middle of next week by my Brother who
is the bearer of this I have nothing special to
write Concerning a Reformation here it is a dull
time Stafford is a secure place I go to hear a Baptis-
t Minister in Wellington there is a number of Chris-
tians that are pretty strong but I long to see an
out powering of the Spirit I Close this Letter
by Begging an interest in your prayers and Subscri-
bing my Self your Humble Servant in the glorious
Cause of Christ Stafford July 11th 1792
Daniel Bolton

NB I am now at work in the
Furnace and it is as Confused a place
as almost I ever saw and it is a great
Trial to me Every thing almost is
Carried on but Religion and that is
fought against

The
Governor Mr Isaac Hurd
at
Middleborough
with Care

S. P. Bolton's
Letter July 4. 1781.

Recd. July 18
J. W.

Black-Water-Swamp, County Virginia
Feb. the 23^d. 1797—
Dr Br^o. Backus.

I embrace the present Opportunity to
inform you, my, & Family's present State of
Health &c., I enjoy moderate Health at present,
my Family are some what affected with the
Ague & Fever, which is very common in our
Regions— I hope my few Lines will find you
& Family Well in Health, and in the fear & love
of God— I had the pleasure of Visiting all the
Churches in our Portsmouth Association in
the Month of November last, I did not discover
much of the appearance of a Revival, but was
very happy in finding the Churches in a living
State, and in my pible way, trying to
administer the Gospel of Christ among them.

I should be very glad to hear from you
Br^o., and know you, & Family's State of Health
&c. and also the State of the Churches to the
North, and also what is your Opinion, of the
utility of the ^{History} Papers, in the several States
and what you think with respect to the

time, ~~when the Church will~~ when the
Church will Experience the Total downfall
of Antichrist - Br., may the Lord Grant
you all the Happiness this Word can afford.
Farewell.

I am with every Sentiment
yours ⁱⁿ the best Bonds.
Beverly Boothe
B

Beverly Boothe,
Feb. 28. 1797.
Rec. June 28.
1793.

Answered
July 10. 1797.

Black-Water Surry County Virginia
December the 20. 1798

Very dear Br: Yours of July
the 10. 1797. by Br: Brame was very satisfac-
-tory - I once more take my pen in hand to
inform you that I enjoy a degree of moderate
Health, my Family has been blessed with the
greater part of the past year with Health of Body
I hope these lines will find you & Family well
in the fear & love of God. I also wish further to
inform you, that we still experience much Coolness
and Barrenness in the ways of the Lord, but we are
increasing under an expectation that the blessed
Jesus will again revive His Work in this part of
His Vineyard and that He will animate his dear
people with the comfortable beams of His Grace and
call his elect to the knowledge of the Truth, we encou-
rage our selves that this long looked for & much desired
time, is not at a very distant period - Please to
let me know by the first opportunity the state of
your health - Esteemed Br: I have reason
to believe that you have been instrumentally in
hand of God to administer much good to the
people of God, may the Lord bless you, with every
needed Grace, that your last Days may be your
most fruitful Days. That when his blessed will
is served with you in this World, that He may
take your Soul into his comfortable bosom in Heaven
is the prayer of your unworthy Br: in the Bonds of the
Gospel. I am at a distance and do not
meet you, but please to express
me of your ministers here in
Surry Virginia. B.B.

Beverly Booth

August 6, 1797.
Dea. 20. 1798.
Dea. 20. 1798.
Dea. 20. 1798.

Middleborough
Massachusetts
Rev. Mr. [illegible]

So
Dear Sir
Dear Sir

And Father in the Gospel

George Town Feb 27. 1798

At the request of Brother Brame
I take the liberty of troubling you with a few lines.
Though I have never seen your face in the flesh, nor
ever expect to see you in this world, I have had an
acquaintance with you several years. I sincerely thank
you for the information you have given me of the
Baptists of New England & the Baptist interest in those
parts. When I was a boy I was very fond of Bunyan's
Pilgrim, I have often pleased my self with applying
some of his Characters to some of my acquaintances;
Brother Backus with me has the appellation of Valiant
for the Truth. Valiant my Father you have been for
the Baptist interest; you have not been a loiterer but
a labourer indeed in the Vineyard of our Lord; as you
have the thanks of the Baptists I doubt not some others
look on you as a disturber of the peace, who would if you
could, turn Pedobaptism upside down. When I reflect
on the advantages with which I have been favoured,
and the little I have done, I shrink into self abasement
not only before God, but before men. True I have not
brought disgrace on the cause of God, by the commission
of any notorious crime; & I have some years ago run
a little about the country preaching the Gospel of the
Kingdom; but O my Father I feel my self sinking into
a useless old man. Though I am but in my 33 years
my memory fails me fast, my mind like a garden
with here a flower & there a bunch of weed, & the whole
in disorder. I sometimes shudder at the thought of
my coming time, alas! the act of my stewardship are
like some of our merchants books, when examined, appear
in confusion. I have lived in this Town twelve months
in a widowed state, have buried two wives & 6 children

with glory that ~~will~~ appear to all eternity in y^e salvation of each

have three living with me & one married, who has a
a daughter. The baptist interest in this place is very small,
we are often saying, "by whom shall Jacob arise".
Infidelity triumphs, & alas! Zion languishes; but the
refuge of the Spirit is with the Lord; therefore though
dimayed we will not despair. I should esteem it a
very singular favour to receive a line from you.

B. Hamme is esteemed among us as a good man & a servant
of Christ. If this reaches you, it be for me an interest
in your prayers. And now Rev Father wishing you
great success in every branch of your labours,
& much of the Lord's presence in your private
preparations & public ministrations

I remain with every sentiment of
esteem & Christian affection your unworthy
& Brother & servant in the Gospel

Edm^d Botford

Edmund Botford.

Answered

Feb. 27. 1798.

July 11. 1799.

Rec. Mar. 10. 1799. And again Nov. 18. 1803.

J. B.

Dear & Rev Father
of Gospel.

George Town Jan. 3. 1805

190

he

Your favour of 18th Nov came to
me and to day, by what means it has been delayed I do not know, but
I however take the earliest opportunity of returning an answer. I
thank you kindly for y^e favour, & sincerely wish it was in
my power to communicate any information that might in the
least measure conduce to y^e Baptist interest. I have no minutes
of any Association South of me, nor any anecdote that I con-
sider would be of service. Last November was a twelve month
I was at one of y^e Camp Meetings near a Place called Kings-
ville, in this State, where I was wrought on in a very extraor-
dinary manner, both in Body & Mind - I came home full of
love, in great hopes as y^e Lord had visited my soul, he
would also visit y^e souls of my few Brethren & Sisters in this
Place - I communicated y^e good news to all, I preached most
of y^e winter & ensuing Summer 6 times in y^e week in this Town
at is to say twice on Lord Days in the Meeting-house, on Lrd D^{ays}
evening on Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings in private
houses, but I am sorry to say not one person White or Black
has been added to our Church; tho I dare not say no good has
been done - O my aged Father do you not pity me? I have now
been in George Town almost seven years & not one white person
Baptised. On y^e 7th Oct^r last I was seized with a fever which
I did not doubt would have landed my poor unworthy soul
in glory, but I was disappointed - however it was the
dearest sickness I ever experienced - after I regained my
rational powers, which were suspended about 14 days, I enjoyed
much of y^e presence of God - I felt much as you represent
our dear comfort to have been - swallowed up as it were in
the will of God - all my wish, all my desire was that God's will
might be done, I would not have had his glory tarnished for
the salvation of a world - But I had a blessed glimpse of that
glory that ^{will} appear to all eternity in y^e salvation of each
soul that shall finally be saved on y^e Gospel plan.

I am still very poorly, have not preached but 4 sermons & each of them in much weakness of Body, but I trust with some degree of assistance from y^e Spirit of God. In my sickness y^e sight of my left eye was much impaired, & y^e particular complaint I now labour under beside a violent cough is a very singular spasmodic affection in my right eye, attended with y^e most painful sensation I ever felt; in y^e intervals between y^e paroxysms y^e eye is perfectly easy - y^e convulsive motion is as a thousand - a hundred a score or as two or three sharp needles darted in y^e eye, according to y^e length or strength of y^e convulsion which at longest does not continue half a minute, generally but a few seconds - these some days are very often in an hour, at other times a cessation for 2 or 3 hours, especially lately, so that I please my self it is about to leave me, for which I trust I feel very thank full. Reading & writing is very injurious, this is a great trial, but blessed be my God I can pray & think. The sight of y^e eye now affected is not as yet impaired; & y^e sight of y^e other I think is rather better - Thus we hobble on through a variety of scenes in this world; y^e paths of some, smooth & easy, when compared with others, mine hitherto has been a mixture, I wish not to complain because I really hope y^e very worst I have received at y^e hand of God has been for my good, & I am sure I have deserved, worse than tongue can express. Thousand & 10000 of mercies, unmerited mercies have I received from y^e hand of a good a gracious & merciful God, who has had an eye over me for good from my entrance into y^e world - Many & great have been y^e revivals of religion in several parts of our State & in y^e adjacent States. In Beaufort 60 miles to y^e southward of Charleston, a small sea coast Town like Geo Town, God has been at work among y^e rich, some very respectable characters have embraced Religion. In Savannah Rev Holcomb has been very successful - a Mr Clay late of y^e Judiciary Bench is baptized & licenced to preach, he is a most amiable character & has already been blessed especially at Beaufort, where he spent y^e sickly months - this month he

with two others are to be ordained in Savannah; to assist at which ordinations Rev Furman is invited —

It is possible were you to see a Methodist from Georgetown he would inform you that y^e Methodist Society in this place have had, & now enjoy a glorious revival —

For several years past there has been two societies of methodists in this town, one separated from the old African plan, ^{both} they as well as our selves have been much on y^e decline — Since the time of y^e aforesaid camp meeting, they have been supplied by a zealous young man, whose abundant & noisy labours have caused a considerable agitation among several, especially those who were of, & attached to y^e two societies — In their meetings both public & private they sing, pray, clap hands, fall down, laugh, holler &c some times all together, that you would think they were deranged — the preachers, or preachers seem to court persecution, & meet with some, from a few wild young

men their complaints are very loud — they are very censorious, their conversions are of short duration, their worship such a confused medley, that for my self when I have met with them, I have never felt the least devotion — but praying — others exhorting — some singing, some in low market language abusing y^e wicked, all these with laughing screaming & falling down going on at y^e same time. This is as near y^e truth as I can describe it. The effect — some evidently seem sincere, others affect a great deal — some for a while are serious, but I am not acquainted with one, except those who were formerly of y^e society, that I consider as having passed a real change.

This strange work begins to subside what y^e end of all will be time will discover. This act includes both societies, y^e separatists have no minister. If you publish by subscription, you will please to consider me as a subscriber for 2 copies. I sincerely wish you every blessing & grace to improve them while you continue in time, & an easy passage when you leave this world, as also a safe arrival on Canaan's happy shore, where sooner or later I hope to meet you, when you will see one that is one of y^e greatest miracles of grace. Yours in
best Bonds Edmund Bokford

Pro: Jaron d. b. f.
19th Jan. 1804

Rev: Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Massachusetts

25

Edm. 13 Oct 1804
Aug. 1804
Nov. 1804
Mar. 1804

And on Feb 6. 1804
And on Feb 13. 1804

the fish

My dear Brother.

Geo Town March 12th 1806

Your very agreeable favour of the 13th ult. I received the other day, & for which I return you many thanks. I sincerely wish I could in return send you a packet of good news also; but consistent with truth I cannot; However in the first place I can inform you that I believe the letter I the other day received from you, was owing to me, as I am pretty certain I wrote to you last. About two or three weeks ago I rec'd a letter from Doctor Furman informing me "that in the fall of 1804, he rec'd a box of books from you, just as he was setting out for the Association, all in a hurry; on his return he could not find the letter that came with them, therefore thought they were lost - but that a few days past he had found the letters put up in a safe place, & that one was for me, & that in your letter to him you had mentioned that two books were for me, & that in a day or two the books & letter should be sent!" I have not yet received either. The Acc^t of Rev. Mr Merrell I have had & have had an opportunity of seeing & reading, tho' in a great hurry his 7 sermons; I was so pleased with them that I immediately ~~wrote~~ wrote to Doctor Furman for some of them, but he had none, & referred me to the same persons you do, Manning & Joring - I intend sending by Mr Nat Coggeshall (who is a merchant in this place in connection with one of my sons in law) whose family resides in Newport some money for a number of Mr Merrell's sermons & the Baptist Magazine - The sermons I think will have a good effect to disseminate light & conviction on the subject of baptism, more than most pieces I have seen. The other event in Lebanon I had not heard of, & think it curious. I am much pleased with the accounts from India; I think the missionaries are laying a good foundation for the spread of the gospel by translating the Scriptures into the different languages of that extensive country. Calcutta seems at present to be in a distressing situation; but I please myself these awful commotions will all work for the display of God's glory - such times must needs be; we however ought to be thankful that peace yet continues among us.

I have been sorely afflicted with a complaint of an uncommon nature in my right Eye, which prevents me from either reading or writing except a very little at a time. In its first attack it was like thorns or needles darting in the ball, which produced the most excruciating torture imaginable - for some months it has changed to the sensation of an hand or foot asleep, & affects the whole right side of my head, the pain is indescribable, some days it comes on no less than 50 times, other days 20 & now & then not above a dozen times, & continues about a minute each attack. No Doctor or other person whom I have consulted seems to understand the complaint, & no remedy has yet been found to relieve me. This last fall I expected a discharge from the toils & pains of mortality, but I am at length recovered, & but just recovered - & now have to grapple with this complaint in my Eye - Well, my heavenly Father knows best what to do with me, & I wish to submit, & I wish cheerfully to submit to his will. - My labours in this place seem not to be blessed, at least not to the conviction & conversion of sinners - I have baptized but 2 white persons since my residence here, which has been 9 years last month; it looks as though I should bury all the Church before I die - You know not my Brother the trials attending one in my situation. I am however as much satisfied of my call to this place now as when I first came to it. I do not mean to insinuate that I have not been in any manner useful, I hope in some respects I have; but it is most probable the effects will not appear till I am gone. It is no small pleasure to one who is a Baptist from principle to look around & perceive the increase & respectability of the Baptist interest in America, in comparison to what it was at my entrance on the Ministry, much more when we contemplate the time of your first remembrance. If you publish your sermon I should like to have half a dozen. I hope it will not be very long before the Christian world will be convinced that Christ's Kingdom is not of this world - Infant Baptism in my opinion is the main support to all worldly establishments in religion; that

being once done away the whole Babel of rubbish in the Church
will be soon cleared away - but I am persuaded it will be very
hard to extirpate it. There are many good but weak men in
the Church; & there are many artful cunning men, who have
& do still impose by their sophistry &c on the other part,
& the Idol will not be given up to be demolished as long as
such Characters can hold it up. However the way is clearing,
God will ere long by one means or another accomplish his
Designs & Christ shall finally triumph, truth must prevail.
If there is a deception in the Christian World, Infant
baptism is one - & if there is a truth clearly revealed in the
Word of God Believers Baptism is. Remove the one &
establish the other & then the Kingdom of the Redeemed will
appear in its glory, & appear like what it is
viz Not a kingdom of this world. You my worthy Brother
have been engaged against the Idol & against the power whereby
the worshippers of the Idol have supported
their unchristian tenets & lorded it over
the good people - You have lived to see
the Idol totter & the power weakened, far beyond what you
could have expected in your youth. This Century is pregnant
with great events - Well, if we do not live to see them, I hope
we shall in heaven hear of them. One thing affords me very
considerable satisfaction viz, that the Lord is raising up some
young men among us, who bid fair for usefulness & far exceed
some of us old men who are about to leave mortality - I am
acquainted with 3 viz Mr Johnson, Mr Brantley & Mr
Ere long it shall be said Arise shine for thy light is come &c

With every sentiment of esteem & affection I

remain Rev & Dear Brothered yours in

the Bonds of the Gospel

P.S. Do my venerable
Brother favour me with
a nother Letter.

Edmund Botsford

Geo Towne S.C.
14 May 1844

25

Rev. Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Massachusetts

Edmund B. Johnson

Providence August 10th 1802

11
I have often been informed that the Church in the Town of Swansea was Established upon the most liberal & truly Catholic plan of any in America. and I have made much Enquiry about it and had determined to apply for a sight of the Church Records but was informed that they were destroyed by some Evil minded Persons. and on examining your History to gain some light on the subject I find it confirmed.

But accidentally hearing that there was an Old Record of the Church of Swansea in the possession of a respectable Family in Rehoboth. I applied & have Received & Copied the same.

It appears to be a Copy of the Original Grant of the Town of Swansea from the Court of New Plymouth 1667. together with Three proposals for the Admittance of Inhabitants &c. made by a Comtee. &c. The first of the proposals is. "That no Erroneous Person be admitted into the Township either as an Inhabitant or Sojourner."

To which the Church made an Explanatory Address to the Trustees. as follows Viz.

That the first proposal relating to the non Admission of Erroneous Persons may be only understood under the explanations following. &c and after mentioning the great Christian doctrines of the Attainment by Christ righteousness &c &c

it goes on to say, "that this is not understood of any holding any opinion different from others

others in any disputable point, yet in Controversy
among the Godly Learned the belief thereof being
not Essentially necessary to Salvation, such as
Pedobaptism Anti-Pedobaptism. Church discipline or
the like. but that the Minister or Ministers of the said
Town may take their liberty to Baptize Infants or
grown persons, as the Lord shall perswade their
consciences. and so also the Inhabitants to take
their liberty to bring their Children to Baptism
or to forbear. &c. and Signed on the behalf and in
the name of the Church meeting in Swansea

By John Myles Pastor,

John Butterworth

and the proposals were afterward Voted by the Town
and subscribed by ~~every~~ ^{the} Inhabitants to the number
of Fifty Four. &c.

It has been said that all the Church members sat
down at the same Table wheather Baptized in Infancy
or after they had arived to be Adults. and this I
think is confirmed by an observation in your History
where you inform that a certain Female was forbid
the Table because she had been Baptized only in
Infancy, &c. perhaps I have not your words but that
is the Idea.

I have been always sorry that Christians should be
so totally alienated & estranged from each other,
solely by the outward Formes & Ceremonies of Religion
when the Heart, the Life, the whole Body & Soule is wanted
more especially at this time of falling away among
Prophessors in other parts of the World as well as in
our Nation.

my design in this Letter is to engage those that
have

been foremost in the Different Denominations to come forward and to remove those lets & hindrances that have hitherto prevented a general Union among all the Regular Churches in New England. as tis certain we enjoy the most humane Knowledge ^{a larger portion of} let us demonstrate that we possess the peculiar Spirit of Christianity that Love to the Brethren even to our Enemies (if such we have.) something like this has appeared among the Meetings in the back part of Virginia Carolinas & Kentucky. may the same catholic Spirit prevail our Land.

The copies from the Records of Swansea are something lengthy. however if you wish for a copy of the whole let me know & I will send it.

with my best Wishes for your Health & Happiness
I remain Your Friend & Humble Servant

Isabel Bowen

Respect Isaac Backus

Friend

Isaac Backus.

Widdellborough

Ansured Aug. 21. 1802.

Hon. Jabez Bowen.

Aug. 10. 1802.

Recd. Aug. 19-

J. W.

Mr. [unclear] was very kind
would have acquainted you of the trouble
that my self & the Church at present labor
under. — The Government of the Rev. Dr.
Hyndes will be able to acquaint you of our
unhappy circumstances. The intent of my
present writing is to pray your help & advice
& to thank it more. — Keep any thing for
the now & pray for me & the Church under
our weakness & afflictions. I conclude
having reference to Mr. Hyndes that he will
thank our efforts to you, and am
Dear Brother in the Gospel,

Ephraim Borne

Boston Sep^r 10 1764

From Boston.
Eliot Baird
Sep. 10. 1765.

To

The Rev. Mr. Isaac Backus
at
Middleborough
Mass.

Mr. Baird's
Letter, Sep. 10. 1765.

Newport Sept 29th 1801

Dear Sir,

Hoping that these few lines will find you enjoying a good degree of health & the present of our glorious Redeemer, I sent them unto you, to inform you my aged Father in Christ, that I have been anxious to visit you & your people since I have tried to preach; but I have been hindered hitherto. I purpose to be with your people on the 2^d Lord's day in Oct. If it be the will of God. Dear Sir, I have but a few moments to write, Elder Kinder being here just ready to return home, by whom these lines are conveyed. We are in peace & love one with another, & a considerable attention to hear the word preached, & we hope there are some under serious impressions. I have baptized four since my ordination. O my Father pray for us. I & my Wife are well thro' the goodness of our God; but our child is very sick, & appears to be nigh unto death. My wife sends her best respects unto you. With sentiments of esteem I subscribe myself your affectionate son in the gospel,
Joshua Bradley
Rev. Isaac Backus

Sept. 29. 1801
J. B. B.
J. B. B.

Newport February 10th. 1802

Dear Sir,

I have thought of writing you a few lines before now but I have waited to see what the Lord was doing in the midst of us, that I might give you some account of his great goodness toward this people; but having an opportunity of sending your book & I thought you would wish to hear something from us.

Soon, after I returned from my agreeable visit which I had among your people, I saw an uncommon attention among my people. And I must say I never experienced so much liberty in preaching, praying & exhorting as I did after my return from Middlebury. But more especially on the 1st Sabbath in Dec. when I trust many careless souls were awakened.

This day seemed to be the first beginning of the work of God among us, although many had been thoughtful for months before according to their experience; but the veil, of their hearts, was not completely rent till then. A New-year's day evening I preached from Job. 16 Ch. 22. Verse when I trust a number more were convinced of their awful apostasy & of the necessity of embracing the gospel before time should end.

Upon the first Sab. in January four were added to my church. Upon the first Sab. in February five were added.

A very fine young man, from College by the name of Jason Sprague has been keeping school in this town for a few months, who has been brought by the mighty power of God to bow to the mild sceptre of King Jesus. He has told his experience to the church & I expect to baptize him within a few days, & I hope many more. O my aged Father

1982

in Christ, I can almost predict the dangers of God concerning
this young man; but this I believe, the Lord knows best, whom
to call to publish salvation therefore I must say they will be
done. This work has not appeared as yet in any other society
in this Town. But some of all societies flock to my Even-
ing meetings for I preach three times every Sab. Thrice a
lecture on Wednesday evening. I have baptized some who
were brought up strict Friends, this draws a number of
that profession to the water to see the ordinance adminis-
tered, together with a multitude of all societies. Great opposition,
to this work, is shown by some. These opposers are not satis-
fied by saying every thing that is had about my doctrine
but they will not allow their wives to see my baptize nor
hear me preach, as though by my preaching & baptizing I had
made these persons believe. These persons who are filled with
such enmity against this work, are men who have not attended
any meeting; but there are some women who have set them-
selves in array against the Almighty; but his arrows are
sharp in some of their hearts. One woman, of fine abilities
who always attended the Friends meeting, came not long since
to my meeting & being asked after service, how she liked
the sermon, she said it was hard doctrine, & that she was
determined I should never alter her sentiments. Glory to God
all hearts are in his hands & he can fashion them as he pleases.
This very woman came a few times more to my meeting
& the Lord in his infinite mercy opened her eyes to see her
awful situation, & blessed be his name I trust he has changed
her heart, & last Saturday I had the happiness of baptizing her
& two more. O how I could write many more things concerning
this visitation of God among; but I have no time, for I am
engaged in visiting sin sick souls. Do give my best respects to those
who ask after me. I should be glad to hear from you by letter.
My companion sends her best respects to you & yours. With much
esteem I subscribe myself your affectionate brother in the Gospel.

Rev. Isaac Backus.

Joshua Bradley

unhappy death for the churches to see
& know what was the cause of it

Joshua Wright,

Feb. 6. 10. 1802.

Recd. Amos's.

J. W.

Rev. Amos

Bachus

Answered

Sept. 4. 1802.

W. H. W. W. W. W.

Newport July 10th 1802

Very Dear Father

in the gospel, I see? your proposals for
printing an abridgment of your History
which gave me much satisfaction to think

that God hath been pleased to spare your
useful life so long, & stir you up to pub-
lish so useful book for the churches to read
& know what we have suffered in times
past. I shall do all I can to forward

the plan. I have ^{sent} 9, of the papers into

Conn. State, & hope to obtain a number
of subscribers from that quarter. Having

but a few moments to write you, on

account of the nervous leg whom I send

this, just calling upon me & cannot

tarry till I can write as much as I

wish for, I inclose a letter written to me

from Broth West. I wrote to him as

soon as I recd your letter thinking that

you had not heard concerning Newbards

Church, & desired him to send me some
thing about it, not knowing but it

might be of some importance to you.
I am well & my family, I have been with
the spring past & not able to write for 19 days.

Yours affectionately

J. Broadben

Rev. Isaac Backus

John W. Brady.

July 18. 1804.

Re: July 20. —

J. 31.

As before

Aug. 10. —

J. 23.

Newport August 12th 1802,

Dear & aged Father in Christ
I have rec^d yours of the 10th, which rejoined my heart, to learn that you are yet able to preach the glorious gospel of Christ; but still I feel for you on account of your bodily infirmities, wishing they could be healed, that you might visit once more your dear brethren & friends who are desirous of enjoying your company & receiving instruction from your lips: nevertheless we must learn from what our Lord has told us, not to desire any thing contrary to the will of our heavenly Father. If those among whom you have travelled preaching Jesus & him crucified shall see your face no more in this world, yet I trust, numbers of them will meet you around the throne of God & the Lamb no more to sigh & weep in secret places, & no more to part. O transporting thought! Can it be possible that these vile bodies shall be made like Christ's most glorious body? Yes, blessed be God that happy morning will surely come, when the nightman

[Faint, illegible handwriting covering the page]

shall shine forth like the sun in the kingdom
of their Father. Lift up your head, dear Sir,
for your redemption draws nigh. I have
great reason for one to thank God that
he has spared your life so long, for I
see more & more every day of the need
of your histories being published in the
form you have chosen, & also of their
being extensively spread thro' the U.S.
may thro' the world. Many of the enemies
of civil & religious liberty have been so com-
pletely cornered & overpowered by sound
arguments that they have cunningly chosen
another & a more dangerous ground to meet
us upon, which is, flattery, & their language
is, come let us all build together, seeing we
are all aiming at one great end, or going
to one place. If I understand their winding,
& have any dissentiment, they only want power
& they would speak to us in a commanding tone.

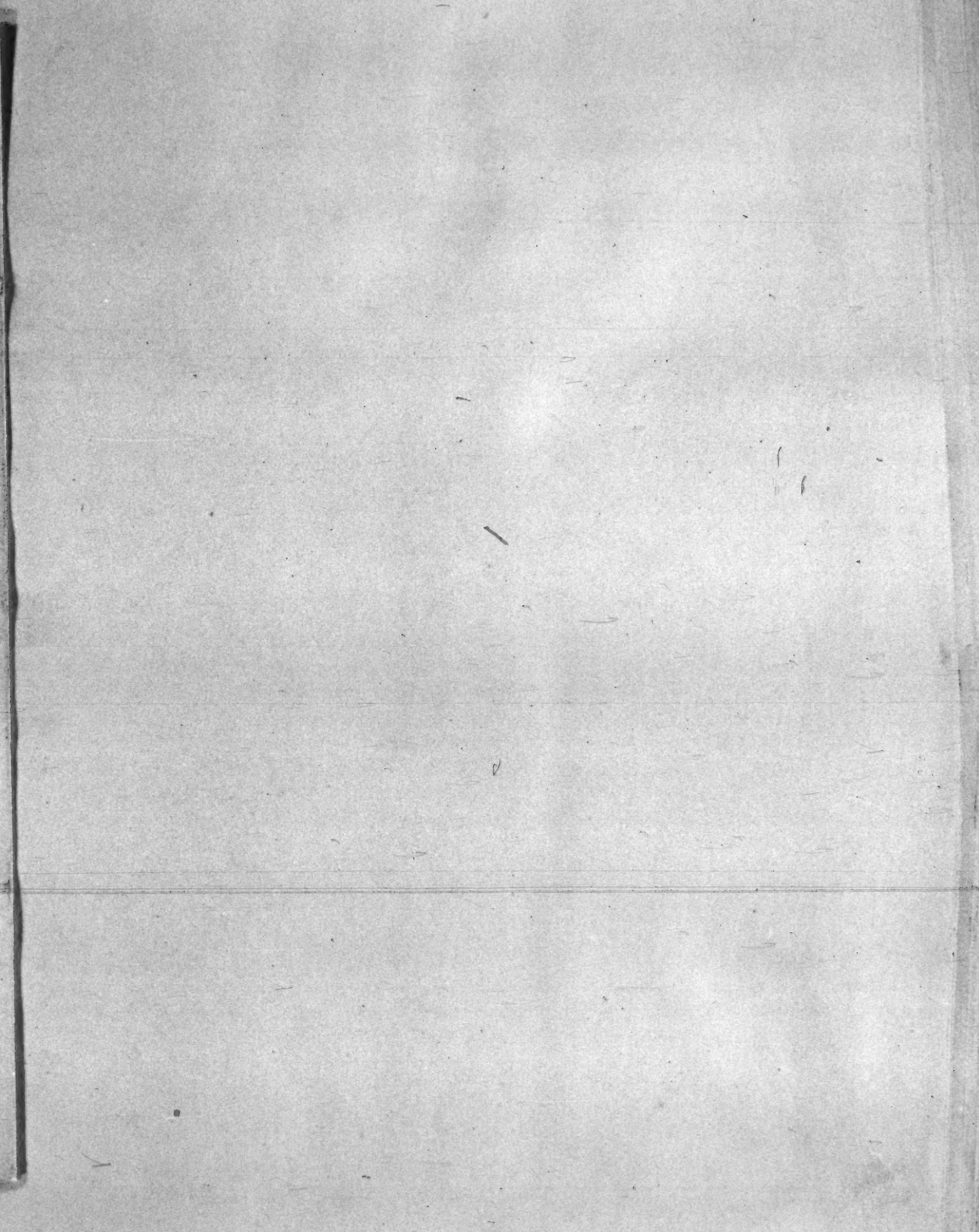
Concerning my death you mentioned, I have been
well informed that it was designed on account of
my accepting the appointment of the City
of Newport to deliver an Oration on the 4th
of July. I hope to see you on my way to
the Association if you are not able to go &
would endeavour to preach in your meeting
house on Monday 10 O'clock A.M. previous to
the Association as I purpose if the Lord will to
break fast at your house on said morning.
Mine & Mrs B's love to you & all friends. Yours &c
Joshua Bradley

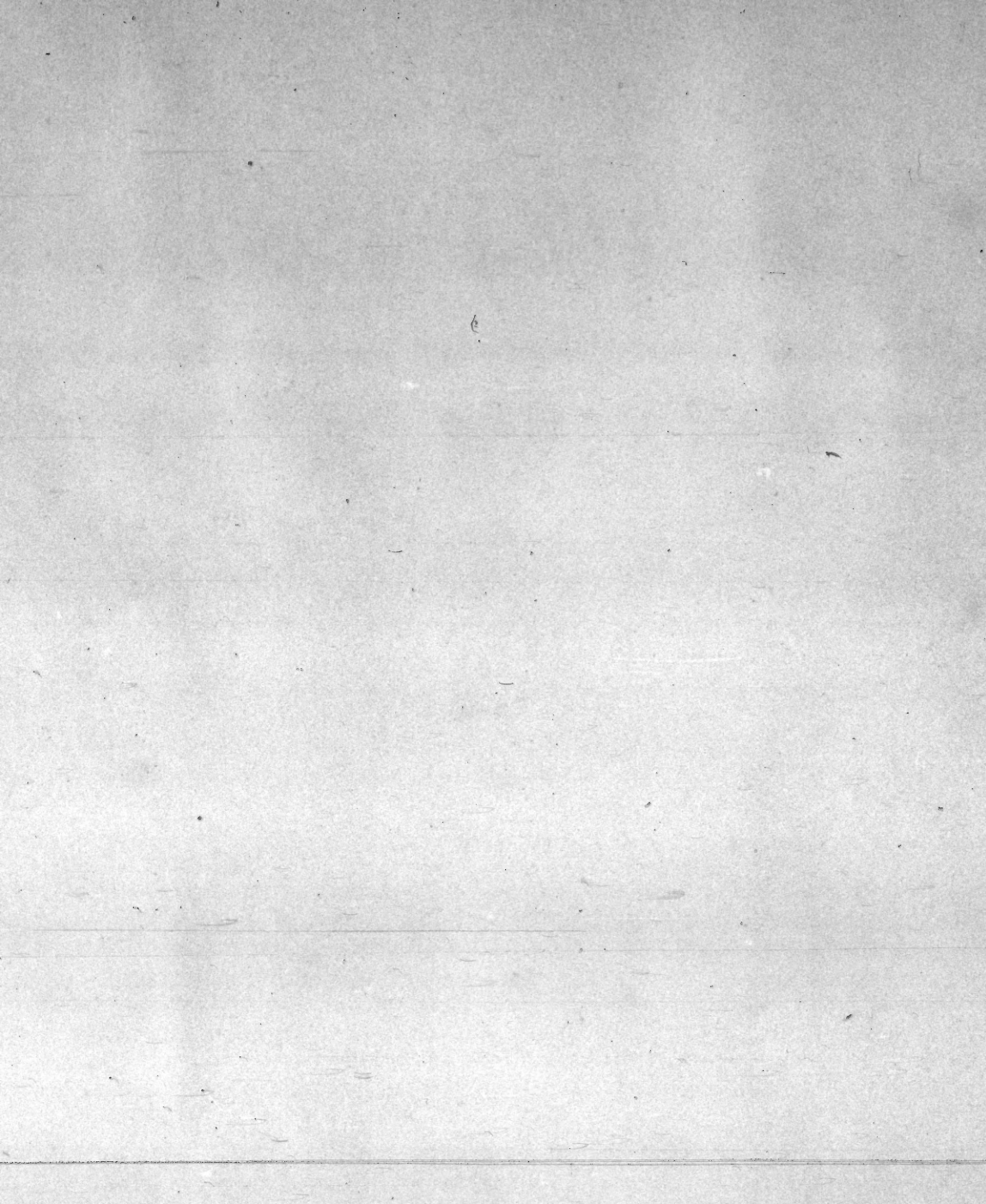
8
1
Joseph Bradley,
Aug. 14. 1804

Recd. Aug. 18.—
J. W. B.

Wm. Isaac & Partners

Middleborough





Dear Sir!

I am sorry, that I have been disappointed in not receiving the money for your books, which sent into Con. Noathan West informed me last Oct. that he would exert himself to send it on before winter. I have written upon it this winter, but have not rec^d any ^{money} nor money. I have not ^{all} of the but have a number now by me which I hope to sell next Spring, if I should go into Con. for they in that State appear so much on the move that such an history will be rec^d with eagerness. I expected to have sold more in this Town & in these parts than I have. For I find more of your other histories among the people than I expected. I would, notwithstanding have sent you \$20 if it had been in my power, but it is not on account of my not receiving what my friends have subscribed for my

that God has granted you so much health & long

support. I hope I shall receive some
for you soon. Concerning the good
work among us; I have the happiness
to observe, that in my opinion, it is
increasing. I have baptized 33 since
I saw you at Warren, & there are
about 15 more who profess to hope
in Christ of late. Many of them
I think will soon put on Christ
& walk in the footsteps of the Saviour.
The Lord was pleased to bless Brother
Shindall's preaching here, while I was
at Thirlington, to the awakening of some.

O pray for us, & especially for
such a worthless sinner as I am.
The more I study the holy scriptures
& see the glory of God shine around
me, so much the more I am led
to see the need of the Spirit to assist
me & of the righteousness of Christ
to stand as the only sure ground of
my acceptance before God. I can
say from my heart, I do abhor my-
self, & am determined to deny it, & take
up my cross & follow Jesus.

Affectionately Yours,
Joshua Bradley

Rev. J. Barker

that God has granted you so much health & com-

90/100 13, 1804.
Feb. 17. 1806.
Feb. 2. 1806.
J. 13.

100. 100. 100.

Improved by
2 Middleborough
Brother Xmas

Newport March 20th 1803

Very Dear Father in the care of

Thro' the distinguishing goodness of God, I am well
& my family, & have lately heard that your use-
ful life is still spared. I think you can rejoice
that God has granted you so much health & men-
tal powers, to accomplish your good purpose & stand
his, in writing & seeing published those important
arguments which you have laid before the world,
upon the nature of civil & religious liberty & the
awful absurdity of blending the church & state
together. I hope, if the Lord will to visit you
in May, for I purpose to pass your way in
going to Haverhill. I have it in mind to tarry
one or two Lord's days with that Church, if
I can get supplies for my people. My society
are very solemn & attentive in hearing the word
preached & a few appear under pungent conviction.
I hear that in Warren about 30 have been
baptized since I saw you. In Providence a
work of God seems to appear, by the gathering
of the people to hear preaching, & some I
learn are baptized. The winter has been so severe
& my engagements at home so many that
I have not been off of the Island since I
visited you. I purpose soon to visit Warren
& Providence & some other towns. Concerning
your Books I have only 11 by me, but whether
they are all sold I cannot tell. I think however
it is highly probable they are nearly sold.

11
Now I have sent 2 Dols. to Elder West in New
London, & have lately been informed that he had
sold 4 Dols. & expected soon to sell the other. I expect-
ed to have sent you some money by Brother Lane
but he did not call upon me, as he & myself expected,
I believe he went off of the Island rather in a hurry
~~perhaps~~ ^{or} probably forgot to call upon me. I hope
you have not been greatly disappointed on account
of my failing to send you some before. I hope
to receive the pay soon for the Books I have sent
away & be so fortunate as to sell those I have
by me. I have sent you Twenty Dollars
by Brother Lane which he promises to
deliver you. My Wife joins me in
sending our Christian love to you & your
dear family & friends

Yours in the gospel of Christ

Joshua Bradley

Rev. Isaac Backus

Joshua Bradley,
Mar. 20. 1805
Rev. Mar. 23.
J.B.

Newport May 17th 1805

Dear Sir,

God has been pleased to order events to take place in such a manner in my family that I do not expect to visit you till sometime this summer. My children have been very sick with the throat-ail, so that we did not at once but they must have gone down to the grave, but God was pleased to rebuke the disorder & they have in a good degree recovered. Mrs. Bradley was then immediately taken very unwell & was not able to walk for some days, but has thro the divine goodness been cured, so that she is now able to be about house a little, but expects to be confined sometime about the first of June. She has been remarkably happy in mind, which is of great consolation to me. At present we are very happy as a church. I think I never saw a body of people more so, all things considered. We have some pleasing gifts, which are improved to the edification of all who attend conference meetings. We have a prayer meeting which begins at sun rise on every Lord's day morning. I believe there are about 700 or 800 people who assemble to hear me preach when the weather is pleasant, & I can say I never saw any people more solemn. I have some reason to think that the Lord is about to revive us, with showers of rich grace. Some begin to awake & come forward to put on Christ by baptism, who have neglected their duty for some months. I hope I shall have occasion to wet my feet often in walking into the water with those who love Jesus. Pray for us, & the whole Israel of God.

Yours in our dear Saviour
Joshua Bradley

Rev Isaac Backus

Answered Aug. 2. 1805

Joseph Bradbury,
May 17. 1805.

Recd. May 24. 75.

Dear Brother Jacobus

Middleborough

To be left at the great Steers & forwarded by line

the Dear Lord Jesus when the knowledge of the
Gospel shall cover the earth as the waters with the
great deep - Sometimes my Soul is drawn out in
reflecting on the blessed day when all Gods dear
Children shall meet together - and altho unknown
in the flesh now, yet shall they meet from all parts
of the Globe around the Throne of God there
Dear Sir I trust to meet you and if we never
should be so happy as to meet on earth yet thro
the Merits of the adorable Redeemer I trust to
see you in Heaven and while you arise to the
brightest perfection of Glory, may your poor un-
worthy Brother have an humble seat I beg
will be your earnest prayer With every sentiment
of esteem and respect I remain &c
If it is possible Dear Sir, yours in the best of
ways
Wm H. Brame }
Samuel Davies Brame

Jan. 25. 1794.
Rev. J. Jones
28. 7. 18.

Ans'd Aug 7. 1794.

Halifax County Virginia Jan^y 25th 99

Rev^d & Dear Sir,

With a degree of diffidence I take my pen in hand to converse with a person whom I never saw, tho a stranger to your person, yet not to your character or writings - and having an opportunity which probably may never offer again I hope you will excuse a stranger in making free to write you -

I would just mention that I live in a remote part of Virginia near the S. Carolina line in a place for some years that I concluded was almost given up of God and was near like to Texas no stir nor scarcely any appearance of Religion was visible which made me think that it was the will of God that like Lot I ought to escape for my life but blessed be God when I was brought to the greatest extremity It was pleased the Lord to begin a gracious work on the minds of the people so that I scarcely ever saw a more general awakening among the people - I began to hope that all my Neighbours was about to start for Heaven and I trust that numbers was savingly brought home to God - I have heard of several Revivals of Religion but more especially in Pennsylvania in a Church where Bro: J^r: Waller formerly resided under the ministry of Bro: Absalom Waller - I was there in October at the Goshen District A^ss^y and we had a blessed time of it - I can truly say that I long for the blessed happy time of the complete frug of

My Dear and Reverend Father in the Lord there is some
that is bound to Boston New England from out of your
River and I understand of what it is to do in her & I
take this opportunity to inform you of my
circumstances and the Lords kind regards to me since
I did so hope that they will find you safe
at your home with all your near & dear
connections both of family & Church well & give
you a welcome after your long journey my mind
has been much exercised since I parted with you
since my mind still on feet on the one hand
inward and Eternal Glory & the other some
of Jesus he is ~~the~~ various the Circumstances of days
after parting with you come to your family & Church
when I found mind much engaged in the spiritual
work a Round, and found kind treatment from the
brethren and various exercises that have & the Lord
work that is a carrying on in various parts
shows me how great & extensive his power is to
the Conversion of Souls my prayer to the Lord is
my most beloved Father is that his salvation
might be set forth I remember when he first
came to work he came to work like him self & the
the ancient Design that I have for his Glory &
the promotion of his cause is such that does
often fire my heart with ambition & my dear
brethren & pray for me I remember the many
sermons I heard you preach and long to see
you again & still hope it I cannot get it out
of my mind but that the Lord has called me for
some good to my fellow creatures however unwilling

[illegible]

but still my father let's not be discouraged but why
should I say you let's not be discouraged I don't think
you have been here long a little more having
Dinner back I Remember you preached a sermon on
Dinner back and it has given me great satisfaction but
to see old fathers that have stood to such a long
that the same hand that sustained them can still
sustain me forgive me for I hope that I never do
but why do he my father was & it still is a little more
and can have with my I remember, & then my father train
you have with them for his sake because I had the
trouble with no other motive than for the love of
you with the dear Lamb I should not
be so happy as to see you more in this world
Remember my former Requests your prayers & blessing
that my dear service may honour him here
O that all his salvation may be in his glory
then say, I think I may I should like some grace
out having of money & great spend it Dear Lord
and master to my I should like to see all the world
be glad to Remember me to brother Rice if it
be possible O my dear brother & servant of my
master I close this poor letter of the Great
Love & friend but I have for you with praying
that his divine blessing may attend you and me
that your work in the ministry may be
rewarded with his precious favour & love & that
your work may be made useful to the last
forever I humbly pray for my Lord Jesus
Christ's sake & remain your ever worthy brother
I hope for time & untill I tell death, by the grace
of the Holy Spirit that sets his name on him who is better than

adventure yet I shall with bright glow, I had such

To the faithfull friends
 an Editor of a newspaper
 in New York
 Book Exchange

John Jay
 New York

This was the
 in New York
 and then sent
 to me by John
 Beckwith

Brown's letter
 King William
 Virginia June 18
 1789
 8.13



... of ...
Pennsylvania State Valley ...
Ever honoured & ...

Since my last ...
Travelling through the different parts of the ...
and had many longings ...
... a preaching and time ...
... I had not ...
... the ...
... the ...
... his life who left not one ...
... of Duty when I ...
... and ...
... left for ...
... is turned to ...
... and ...
... cause me to ...
... of ...
... in ...
... grateful ...
... Dying ...
... it's full ...
... for the ...
... your ...
... with ...
... Lord's ...
... and ...
... with ...
... miserable ...
... ashamed of ...
... thoughts to ...
... your ...
... the ...
... in ...
... in ...
... through the ...
... advance ...
... for those ...
... is left ...
... all those ...
... to ...
... able and ...

Give you at least to only Right a few Lines to me
 I should most thankfully Excepted here that
 the Editor of such kind of Letters would draw comfort & find
 still abundant Union. I may say Dear if I may
 call them so. Let them charge me with my
 Sisters a word of Reassurance, love, for his, and their Glory
 yet painful as the thought appears I still in Roman
 homage flee my first & Love in them and him whom I
 love to do. O my heart's Dear Saints. O the precious
 Dear people see & agree think it worth your poor, I feel
 servants Dyer and worthy your regard for them and their
 to tell how I love them or my mind with much
 Thomas & was your Judgment would direct. Remember
 me my Dear my friends part of my Lord & father
 in Jesus Remember the poor Ragged Sinners my
 Elect Lady if I have a place with my God your family
 I will Remember Jesus.

July the 15 1790 - I bid Remember Jesus
 from my father in eye in Christ in your in life & death
 & every church around Geo. Rogers Oh may I hope in glory
 Wm. Brown

Wm. Brown July 15th 1790
 Rec. Nov. 1.
 J. B.

Exiles Black & white
 in the land
 of unbelief
 maintained the
 hand by the power of
 George Rogers

[illegible]

Wm. Brown, July 15. 1790

Re. No. 1
I. 13

Elder Edmund and worthy of the Lord Oct 6th 11. 791
The Parish Petition which was from Gloucester and
position in matters formerly being done for the
Worshipful 8 of October one of which of the many
which I think of them of heard the most appearance
of the visible approach of our Lord's Heavenly
visitation of this our wretched world. The Reprobates
of ministers that even I saw with the Reverend
of the blessed eyes were opened by one of friends of
which the records I expect will show you in
fact the substance from brother Linsford with wisdom
of God (was from Revelation 12. 9. 12. on Sabbath
my brother John by ballot with one of the Georgia
brothers and the Elder & Pastor with brother broadens
brother ~~brother~~ ^{brother} ~~brother~~
carried the subject were wise. brother shared wisdom
from the people to the Ephraim 2. 2. brother Linsford
of Georgia from Georgia to the first from Isaiah
2. 46. Worthy brother Linsford of the from Revelation
12. 12. 12. 2. 2. of you a low you due to Gloucester
the Remembrance of the first virgin, command
the witnesses had this. Dupont professed it should
with Jerusalem suffer of many things which
this terrible ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~not~~ ^{not} admit for sinning
unbelievably more with my Elder Remembrance his
Pardon to dear Elder Gault. and my brother Linsford
Remembrance your friend is thankfully Remembrance
I beg again to be in humbling and Remembrance
Church, what many I share a part with all in new England
Remains with your honored vision as for Christ Jesus
W. Linsford
for next year W. Linsford

Dec. Jan. 16. 1792.
S.B.

Oct. 11. 1791

Wm. Wram

Northampton County Virginia

Permit your Most Unworthy ^{Reverend and Dear Elder} ~~Just~~ to Inform you of the
Reason of this Trouble the Tender Love and Regard you
had both when you were in Virginia and ~~at~~ ^{since} New
England still Draws my heart after a long Marriage
to you and to be with you but this is no where first
Only In one submitted through Infinite Goodness
I have not mentioned how you have Done for I doubt with
your Standing in the Cause of ~~the~~ ^{the} Truth Gits you into
Love but my old father in Christ if I use not the
Expression for (Vanity) that the cause you stand
is not precarious but sure your Murty know who
has paid his life for for give Divinity stand. Drift but in
his own but Should I advise one that is my Father I
will I cannot, but what has Drawn my Dearest Object is the
error that abounds in the minds of men, not how much a
family was but how much a family is or how much
Respect has its Due been done. Little has been My Reverence
to God my precious Saviour, Temptation has brought me
some times Low, yet you still Live some call him a
Creator yet nothing: Can he sit but I mentioning
to you from the Association which I don't know well
come to your hand there appeared much Myself for
some of the places where I have Travelled some the first I thought
would there appearance God will bring forth in his own
time, now I beg my Elder to pray for me for the
apostle. Say the prayers of a Righteous man availeth
much My first Regards to the rest the Dearest part
of your self and may I beg of that God whose
own and whose I would be to give me a nearer to you
for I know if you Christ loves you love I am like them
I am grieved. Love me my dear Mother, as far as I know
Desire to join this is all one of my dying Requests
that I may have some Replumblance of him or his
if it like my poor Disposed Mother no more but Rest
but Blessing you for Christ sake Wm Byrnes Jr 1792

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 Jan. 12. 1492.
 3rd Nov. 8. 20.
 9. 13.

Virginia Northampton County.

my Dear Elder, and several

my God and master. I took the Liberty in scribbling
few lines to you ~~about the~~ whether they a Friend
for the host of said accounts or if they ever come to
and I cannot tell. With humble Submission take
the opportunity by Capt. Joseph Lewis master of the
bound into some of your hands to Rome
my sincere Esteem and bounded Duty to yourself in the Lord with
fidelity I struggle finding it hard to keep that I trust
you advised me to get one blessing attended it was always
the way of wretched standing fools shall not ever this in
which as he has brought. Religion thrives in some parts
but slowly and where it is in Right it glories much
and in, Ignorance flows over but God the Lord
will remove them in his own time, if it should be
this wife with new England glory be to Christ I trust the
Lord the Church smiles when his glory opens its light
in glorious display with the glorious golden day
dom in part abundant, but subjects of both together
comb. Lay down or foreign war is first, its at the beginning
your Reward is not for me but Remains Enriched by with Christ
times of his fathers Faith and Commanded to maintain
I long to my Elder with the Elder Redeemed to his Kingdom
and Triumphant Church to tell the golden notes that Angels
as soon and Saints from Eternity a door, opened from the
at Victory. he conquered in heaven he conquered on Earth
and Conqueror stands a Raid in Roads thought of the first
before the heavens and the Earth were laid his Dwelling was with
the sons of men

8/13
No. 44
1492
Wm. Brown

To Elder Jacob Barker

Middlebury Town

To the care of
Capt. Barker
Massachusetts
State

forwarded by Dr. A. C.
Helman of Boston

My Dear Eliza May, Mass. 1792
The Letter makes you at the Distance of some
hundred of miles but but Remains to my heart
Very near again Love runs is more
Joy's than when placed in Conjunction with
The head I must Doubt your affection where my
wishes not wanting nor my Duty if humbled
It is ^{not} Disturbed but Remains as it has your
Subject to Return your Sister's only acknowledg-
ment heart that with this a blessing
of business. ~~Expressing~~ is long friend and laughter
and has longed to S. New England but Doubt
now if it be denied but Doubt think that my
is Run out beguiling some but little yet when
I think of my Eliza and the power that they who are
and Drop a tear for that Simulation of her health
and that Image which I would Simulate Remains
I Doubt with yours in the best Esteem
your Ever Devoted humble
Doubt in God with. ~~Remains~~

From our Constitution. I know that

To Eliza Stark
in
Madison
Stoughton
forward by Brother's order

Wm Bram,
May 23. 1793.
Jed. Sept. 12.
S. B.

Forward Elder. With the highest Respect of
affection I have with permission of my Prayall
Father set down to scribble a few lines to one
whom my soul loves in the Lord with
his I have had one convenient opportunity
to address one point of love to him as his
church. Since leaving New England as I would
be the love has not been waning on his behalf
nor on my spirits: perhaps rather on
my Indifference perhaps two much for his
cause, they of the brethren of the Southern
Church. Sometimes I desire but the time is
not come and the Lord is displeased. On some
day like that dwell in his arms. This
wants to rain more of that. Love a house, and
greater fellowship for the spirit: and greater
love for his Constitution. I know that the
Lord I observed in the Elders in Eastern
churches has much to desire. I have an ardent
desire to see them again, but yet I cannot
see the mother again. In the the I had the
liberty of singing so much of your hymns
when with you, yet I could not get to
the object before I heard of his death. To visit
Blake himself, and then I did not know
who I could give it into the hands of better
than than he. I shall I said with an eye
to it. I then endeavored to find them and
and having this was an appointment to the
General Convention. I found from the Union
that it must contain for them and printed on
the hand of one of the Old Regular order.

and expected he would have brought it before them
with his brethren of Order. and was at great pains
The Rev. Elders about the distress that some of
ty. Request. but the Reverend Committee when
meeting did not receive it from him and I stated
the Reasons to for objecting to it. and
the I thought he did not justice to it and so
next I presented it to them and thought that
It should have their In. judgement to promote
its cause. Consonant better than any other. I said
al. they did not think of it under their considera-
tion. only by advice. but I still thought no
wisdom body could have with the Church. Received
it to the satisfaction of its consequence and being
convinced of this. I thought better of it. and so
of Elders and brethren but brother's votes was
this and second to introduce. and I gave it in to the
table. for the kind Lord and this constitution.
Thus Honored Sir I would still enjoy your
Estimate. The General Committee had some very
Esteemed brethren; first brother's narrow
and brother's country was the matter and brother
brother's mason joined. The Introductory sermon, com-
munion &c. and brother's resolutions. 1st. The Holy
Scripture 62. a. and young brother's sample of
and P. 2. 2. This appeared much more in the Council. for
the brother's Clay who seemed to have the best of those
fundamentals of the Establishment. brother's
millions or very low. with many complaints
that my brethren have a great which
is kept by faith still prevail. and the pleasure
is from hand to hand yet with the mind shake
Serve

more manifest, this is his time Oh that I might
the law of Christ, I love the Elders whether I be over,
shall be there in New England, Christ my master
knows I expect to go to the Southward for a year and
or two, but the Eastern States and Churches
sute my mind best, but the Interest of them
to the South wants such as the Elders, and
their mistakes wants the Only Lord of Salvatio
on, my heart, which was and is the Lord.

Songs with the Elders To see the glory of the
Latter day of the Church the Church, with
God, may I have some humble seat under

the administering of the Lords. Elects some
perhaps think that this thought is not
humble but, this is the sweet notes that,

angels sing. Blessed God I thank thy mercies
that I ever ^{saw} such wisdom. Remember
dear Elders your duty with the Elders and

Brothers, there has salute you, particularly
the household of faith, which shall bring
you, and mine End has my mother like
sister Country in spirit, salute the Elders
Sisters, and the Sally of faith. Remember
his to all that love the Lord Jesus in

Sincerity. I am yours in strict bond of
glory for the Church is safe in
Christ. Jesus sake
William Byrnes
the 12 of May 1796

from the General Committee
Held at Elders fork Church.
winning house

Alford

found by Alford

Alford

Middlebury

Elmer of the Church

To Elmer John Alford

Wm. Brame,

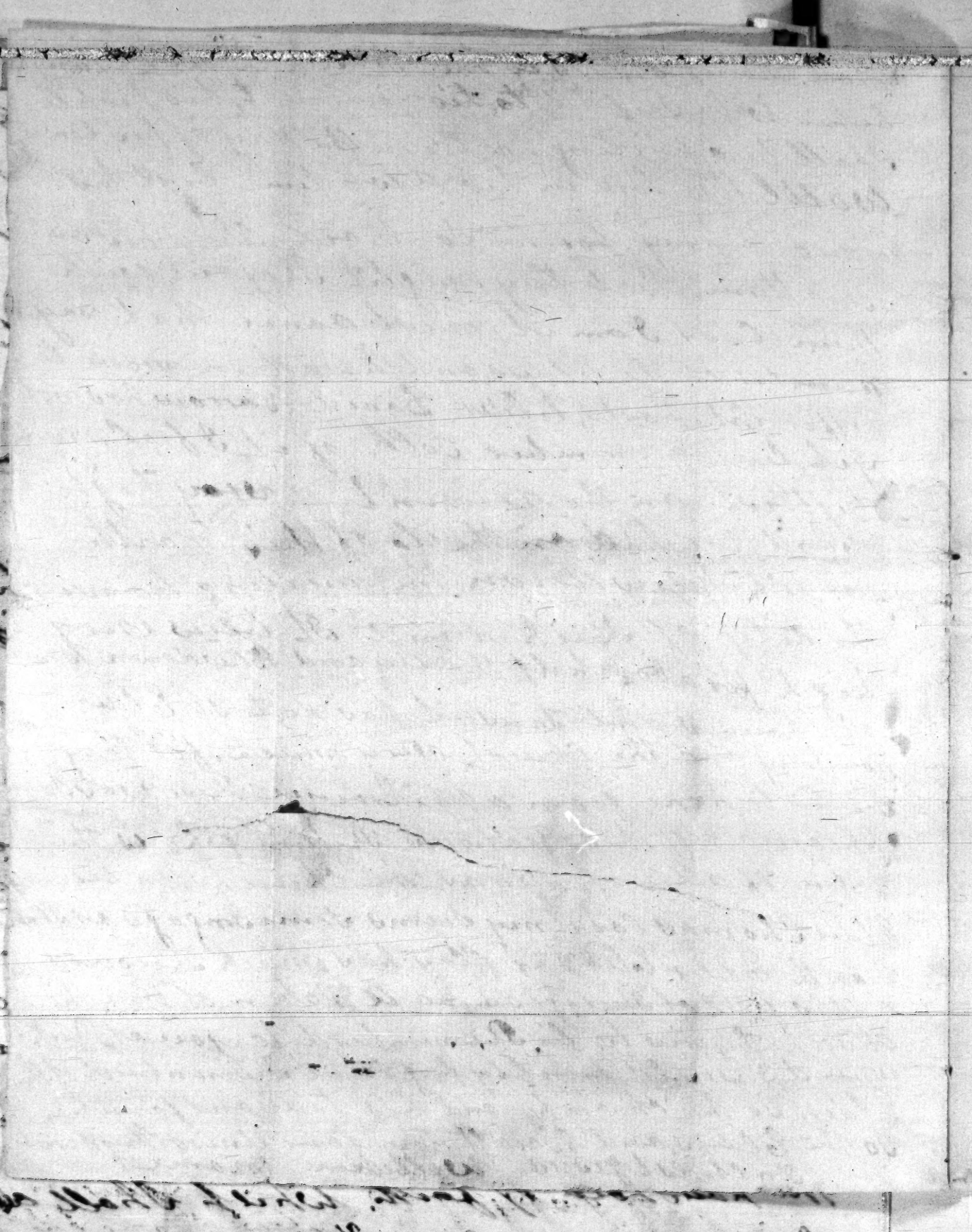
May 12. 1794.

Recd. Aug. 6. 1795.

J.B.



more manifest, this is his time Oh that it might
be his to be faithful to his government, his people
shall be a willing people in the way of his power,
would the Lord in his own time bless his
Elders, to pray for the South and Churches and
Brethren, that they might rejoice with
them, alas I am it must come that way,
Members of the Elders and Brethren move to
different parts, Elder David Barrow has not
yet, but a number talk of it, I feel much
distress on the account a very high
wind we had on the 16 of this month
which blew down the meeting house in
the city of Richmond it blew very
high for above half the day and blew down some
other houses and saw it has distressed Elder
Courtney and the Church very much, for they
seem to hope from appearance there was some
appearance of his zealous Religion who is the
life of all - nations the Church under
Elder Thomas Courtney seems some engaged as Thos
Hart Elder Charles Clay has much recovered
and is full of Religion, as a token of love the
Church desires to be remembered to you at Rich-
mond, I would humbly beg to be remembered of the
Elders, to the Church, and his lady, and family,
to the Elders, and Brethren, your unworthy brother
In Christ Jesus William Boone
before you will be in heaven with my lady



Honoured, high Esteemed

When I wrote from the church
in Norfolk, I would have bin most particular but
was not so patient as time might have permitted, in
the It is much lamented that a Union is more
wanted, yet I reversed, dear Sir It is much loved
with the Lords and your happy Esteeming our
great wisdom and Experience Not Only can
make such a service, for my love for the Elders
and Brethren, but for the little love for the
churches of the dear Lord, his greatness, and my
little acquaintance, with the human nature of
Christ, and the True Spirit which his churches
is possessed with, that it takes such as the
Elders is and was, to maintain the liberty of
the Gospel, I never shall think this will be
the case Till all the Lords strive together for
the faith that is in Christ Jesus, I lament
dear Sir, my own frailties and weakness for
that cause that is worth more than all the
world besides, the blessed blessed Brother Barnes
and Elder Brother Page both of which I think the
Elders got acquainted with, when in North Carolina
and Virginia, the dear Elder Right of the
church in York County was a very poor but very
rich, in the Elders Great Esteem for you
Oh, that your Lord Elder Lord and his was
before you will be in heaven with my lady

To
Elder Isaac Bachop

in the
Town of

(21)

Middleborough
State, Massachusetts

Jan. 21st 1800
Philip Allen Jr.
of Middleborough

To the Grand Court of Decrs.
Samuel Stillman Esq. of
Boston

William Braine,
Mar. 17. 1796,
Rec. Jan. 11. 1800
S. B.

Highly Respected and now so much Esteemed Elder,
could take the pleasure to Inform one I love so dear,
the Intros he has so much at heart, the dear Redeem-
ers, Kingdom, but blessed be the Lord it is not like
all other blessings, tho there is a little to the Creation
Observation of the Lords View of our Conduct Towards
his Intros & Gaory, that Shame & Confusion of face belongs
unto us, The Couldness in Religion has a most sad
and fatal affect, I was so much on its professors,
I know your wisdom & discernment has seen and
sympathized for it Oh, that it would please the dear
God to forgive us, and Restore the Greatful Renewal of his
precious promises; he has promised he would forg-
ive, for this blessed, and our Saviours sake, I do not
think, Elder, that this will take place till there is
a Reformation in his precious churches, there is some
Religion with the Northern Union and some of the
Southern, but dear Elder, there is hardly the appearance
yet. Some of the Elders think when matters get to the
worse there is help with our God, there seems
to be some appearance in the State of North Carolina
of a Submission to the hand of the Lord, Oh that
it may be affectual ^{appear} not only in that State but in all
the Union & in all the world, that Glorious Kingdom
of God for he has said it shall be so, I long to
be with the Elders, that Great Redemption, but
I think you will be in heaven with my Lady
before that long for and much love & care, not one
word all this time how the Elders Lady church &
family does ah, says the Elders we do bad enough when
we want the love of God in others we do badly indeed,
at I guess most unworthy thinks, I need not tell how
suffer as to this world in my trials, yours is a no
is nature, my health has bin best beyond many Oh,
that a God has been sinners Oh, that I were able to
under through grace that love to God and his servi-
that thank his Elders, Devere, you'd receive 3 dollars
re a small present to Lady & backus of D. S. Gill's
I humbly acknowledge of my love, there would have
a remuneration for your history, but did not know

Child of God and Cal'd according to his purpose
Earnest Desire of Righting, I found it my
that often a Rise in my mind, of that Dispen-
sation which becomes one that Right as all for
God. I should not admonish you that being
out of my power, but to advise you in the spirit
of humility would Righter abetter for those
your duty, I trust the obvious Christ Sign is
Rough more in callen, and with power and
much a surer to which Establishment you
have attained, but my mean sup you did not
Dispute, tho the world have thought me unworthy
of affection, yet with my desires I found you
house Open at all times, and willing to hear
my wants. I know I never could make any Return
of Satisfaction only my trust was in the Lord. I
your happiness if in body I know if for leave
and if Departed is not fully Digested my feeble
wounds; if I ask how my Lady and Children
smile how it would be two faces, yet when I look
in them, sometimes in one place, sometimes in
another, smiles Count the home that I do not
Right like the gaze of God in the obvious, or with
the beloved Apostles, much less like my Elder, he
say: like must it be like some of the meaning of the
Christ: my heart you would be led to ask of the heart
not like my righting, full of Oldities. O my
Lady what have I in the Christian nothing I do of
your Christ. tho he stay amongst will I love his,
in fine my Disposition, O my obvious for fine my
Righting thy soft presence with Emily Righting in
you. pray for the best my best prayer is for
awful, but the his, my soul I charge you to pray
may my Blessed Saviour, pour out his Spirit with
me, and Church: is today I still desire to come
in both hands carrying Virginia

To Lady Banks

Middlebury

Down

Massachusetts

State

forward by New England
Car. L. Howe.

Wm Brame,

1797.


Very Dear Rev. Elder

I Received

My Return tho. Some agreeable to promise after
out, brightening and hope this will meet with
forgiveness from you Sir and My Lady not
only for barrenness of News which is the
worst of Faults but what adds to its Revue
is bad writing and a bad man tho I had some of
The dear Lords presence in My journey which
Makes me Reflect with some pleasure on
My Traveling this year I visited upwards
of Twenty Associations in the which I
performed with some Deffistly more than nine,
Ten tho on foot while the United States
were running and performing with the many
Hundreds of thousands there different posts
with pleasure in some degree the Christi-
an, ought to be the more Industrious since
they Run five times faster yet have ten times
better wages there has been some considerable
All Divivals on the North of James River
in many of the Churches blessed. The dear Lord
In Richmond Elder Goustray has baptised up-
wards of fifty and the same number in the
same association from them down to smaller
numbers the blessed dear Lord is at work I
have heard Elder Leland has also Engaged the minds
of Dear Elders and Brethren yet Dear Sir there is
a great complaint of Coldness some of the associations
no. have had some of the Lords presence since the poor
black brethren have had this liberty much elevated
In the Virginia State and our Brethren in fact
of them has been obliged to the greater caution the
liberty gains ground in many of the associations.

Elect borrow & determine to move as I have heard
which is a bad blow to the Church if the ~~same~~
troops of the dear Lord would stand their
ground it would be more encouraging but
you sit with many still stand the banners
of your Sovereign, I have been greatly thinking
of the matter but what will much say to
our blessed Lord who departed his cause in time
of much distress there was but few faithful
in all ages and I thought that the Baptists Elders
and brethren have above all people now under
Heaven the greatest cause to stand, this Lord has
raised his banner, and they have professed the greatest
love, but the prejudice that have prevailed is now
rendered pallid, so now the former Old Elders
have laid down too much this is a ~~rough~~ and death
as that retain the truth, don't regard their friends
only as Democrats, the faith of the Lord Jesus is
regarded as the source of ~~many~~ objects
to select establishments, that now had an existence,
the daughter of Episcopacy still retains its ~~main~~
head, I have more faith in distinction than in Religious
fallacies, I don't make him say the heaviest in
his heart and I'm ^{sure} he won't in his works, this is
many men can't get their living but by Religion
and was they Religious, this Republican Examin-
tion would be the Examination and Recanta-
tion, where they are of god, this is a people who
condemn themselves by the confessions of this and
God's power, in short with me nothing but
a Renunciation and an entire new fabric is with
the Religious now as far as from any observa-
tion I have been able to obtain, now the Old
Nurses should be inquiring not what is wrong
but what was evil and then the question would
be the first not with parties as in socialism ap-
pears but by serious Equals I should doubt

again Rev. Sir with a Two fold profusion of
ecclesiastical navigatory phrases or phrasal
scolastic whose aim is power and popularity
an affirmation from the very ^{lib} of Righteousness this
way of half magnifying New Run in the mind
of the just one. When our gospel is hid it is hid
to them that are lost the way of Truth they have
not known, such greatness as are Happy & blessed
are, sum to Run this Run, a ceaseless exertion
in the form of a Saviour, fills their mind of these
sort of Teachers who Run fast of the strength
of the Tide, is not against the wind and wave,
may that connection which subsists between
angels and their god, continue their direction,
but I think the Church is under another Revolu-
tion, to her Righteousness may you send the
precious one appear, for there is a very
sagacious body, in the most body of the
Church, a great earnestness approach among
our Baptist sons and daughters but have will
not answer, unless this is that Union that
we seek answer. I am going on slowly how
many of the Brethren that approach it
I don't know, but a few I encourage I have many
that magnify their great power, and but a few
who have with me, but I have been informed
your books, Dear Elder has not come to hand and those
that were in Virginia I have not received I have heard
they were much scattered and those with them at Mr
Pleas Elder Watkins has Note for them to be sent back
him for me but I hear the account of them the Elders
and Brethren received your favor to them very affec-
tionately when I have had the opportunity to see
them my Brother is gone to his Dear Father and your
Dear William is left to suffer I am going to the
South many hundred miles and have no Reason to
expect better than I have had this I Right upon



De la un
L. 1. 13

My dear Sir,

State of

Willie Leung

in the down

Edw. Jacob Barber

as Brother

Richman and Decm. 1797

This comes in hopes to find you in health
with all that love the dear Lord with I would
wish you the greatest happiness that any creature
would afford in the honorable call you are in
but can't expect it so pleasant or so happy
unless this was more Religion with those who
compose your Number If I could facilitate your
happiness by any means I would gladly embrace
it I have not heard from your Dear Lady nor
family but from a distance believe it is every
thing very material would be of it but leave to
Remember me to Solo. Jew and Mr. Flay with
much Respect hope your Councils will meet
the Lords blessing and hope it will End for his
and the spiritual happiness of his State this is our
Religion dear Sir I in some parts and some Revivals Oh that
it was more so Brother pray for it I love you Sir and
perhaps you may think it a sign of arrogance but it is
with much diffidence would you Sir be so kind as to
pay Elder Welch of Philadelphia a bank 31/2 shillings for
me for some books it will much oblige it shall be
repaid with thanks as soon as your Return would
you be so kind Dear Sir to Inform the same Elder
to forward on the books If he has not sent them
to Richman I am with Every sentiment your
Unworthy Brother J. L. Smith
Wm. Brann

lets and brethren to my lady and your church
Bo ... the court and the church

Mr John Weston
Member of
Congreg in Salisbury

Wm Irvine
Dec. 19. 1797
Re. Apr. 4. 98.
J. W.

Reverend Dear Elder,

Richmond June 20 1798

I Received your kind form of
Dumfries 1797. which I received my soul the
I did not get it till May. being so the South
When it came I felt very happy on the Reflec-
tion, that your dear ones had Returned but
was much pleased for your Recovery and
for the gracious protection of so valuable
a life, and your Lady's and family's, I hope
you are all well. Last Fall, when it was
came to hand I, never heard, the books came
safe to hand, and Elder Cartney had them
secured till I Returned, whose family is in a
gracious degree of health, Oh that this were
my dear O D father. In the dear Lord, in the like
with his, Delusions dear Sister under various
Sufferings, the O D Church's many are
considerably engaged and keep up their fellow
ship in some tolerable degree, with some
gatherings. Elder Cartney baptised about
fifty in the course of last year's association, and has
some few this year. that had no settled minister
In Matthews county, Virginia about fifty, and two
in the

Churches in Buckingham and Prince Edward Cos
and still continues to have a steady increase
with many others in Virginia in brother Thomas
Merris of Georgia about sixty added in a year
and the black churches have more freedom
from their persecutors. The Old Elders of Savannah
now ^{have} about thirty to captivity. Many of
the Virginia associations have taken these
unhappy creatures into some consideration,
which shows that the Lord of Sabbath
will bear their growth, and their hard trial
must. Oh that the blessed time would
be at hand, when the Church should be free from
everything that now hinders her light, or would
with to obstruct it, your books I have
not disposed of distributed them yet, as the
distance to some places is considerable, and
some I have sent I have not received those
that were at Elder Williams, and Mr.
Peadar I now have got, Elder Wathkins has
sent and can never get any return, I am going
from Richmond I expect this week on
a Sizing to get further information for I never have
in this since I sing you for some reason, so I have
made inquiring and have long had a great desire

To have been able to give you an account of them
Not for the profit, but for the purpose that
such as Remained unsold might be accounted
for, I have many matters to communicate
to you, but ~~was~~ to send them at present, If I
can the Lord willing, had thoughts to be at
Warren Association this fall, and such
Returns as I can make then, If I do not
send them, I send you dear Sir Elder Harrows,
Ceculus Letter, on his leaving Virginia, his
Love is great, tho, the gracious Lord is
Sufficient, I send you a few Minutes for
your Association ~~for~~ as I may not come
with some for others which are mentioned
on them I have directed all to the care of Elder
Baldwin I hope an Interest in your prayers and
Weg to be remembered to all the dear Elders and
Brethren My Lady Backus and family and your
Church I want to see you very much before
you go. to know for I think you'd go this
I Remain with Every Sentiment
Elder pausing of Respect your most Unworthy
my Sister Lady Brother and Sister in the Gospel
with the Church and Family desire to be heard in your house,
Wm. Brown.

It is I have been traveling now since I left home
that is the greatest part of time I have not any
home, but I look to Elder [unclear] of my
mission & Elder [unclear] shall I get to one I wish
that or few in my situation would [unclear]

[The page contains faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

Dear Sister Sarah
 I have been thinking
 of you very much lately
 and wondering how you
 are getting on. I hope
 you are well and happy.
 I am well at present.
 Love
 John

I have with me a small quantity of the same
 and will be glad to send you some if you wish.
 I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,
 J. H. P.

March the 15 1805

My Very Dear Old Elder,

I acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter dated Nov. the 9 1803, & must beg pardon for not answering or writing to you before this, I had waited for an opportunity & a proper convenience, it revived my heart to rec'd hearing from your letter again Old Pauls bounding in the love of the Lord & his cause, but it affected me very much to hear of your state of health, And much more of the loss of your dear companion my Lady one I Estimated much very much, that she is gone to her fathers kingdom & her services rest I have no doubt, now in the enjoyment of the Happiest & highest Intersternments while she is waiting your arrival with all the Elect, dry our like a ripe shock of corn or like the Tabor John, you on his breast you lean your head & breathe your life out sweetly this, then Entering into his rest the sweet beams of love from his admiring Eyes, will Eternally afford Infinite fulness to all his saints & Angels, O may I anticipate Can I view by faith the happiness of its enjoyments with my Old Elder & father like you are constant on my mind with your dear family & my Brethren In New England, I hope that these will find you & yours with my friends in the enjoyment of health, it haws me in a tolerable degree thanks be to the Lord for it, I have bin much afflicted since being In New England with the colic, with a fall from a chair which broke my collar bone & hurt me very much, I am glad that last power to Surgeon & doctor m. very much, & what that I was shall Surgeon and my Brethren in New England again is to be uncommon, the work of the dear Lord in Virginia kindling

Dear Elder in the middle & southern & western
States where I have bin or have heard of, is not so
Prosperous as has bin, Religion does not
lose in its intrinsic value, but the blessed &
precious showers does not visit the parched as
sometimes it does, Dear Elder pray for us & beg
our Brethren to remember the cause of Zion
before the Lord - we have had fine times of the
Divine presence, & the many have turned their
backs on Jesus yet but few compare with those
brought in, the middle district had about 2000,
Loves about 2000, the goshen & ports mouth
about 1000, the Roanoke about 17 or 18 - hundred,
the flat river about one thousand, the old hickory
has had a wonderful awakening & ingathering about
17 or 1800, the New some and all the states South
& west of Virginia, O Lord Revive thy work - &
Remember us again we beseech thee - I have heard
from Boston what a glorious work the King of
heaven is carrying on there, Oh may it prosper & thrive
thru, out the States & the hole habitable earth.
I heard from you by Elder Watkins & was excee-
dingly glad, the money for the Books I have had laid
up for you & is in Elder Flays hands, I must
had a good opportunity to send it, and I cannot have
to suryau or take it ^{to you} before & I am afraid to put
it into hands that I am not acquainted with, to lose
it would be very heavy on me, if I could be acquitted
from failures or accidents I should know better
how to act, a letter or letters on the subject will
be ever esteemed & loved, dont fail writing
I dont mind the Expence Oh if you dont mind

Wrighting, the books did not sell so well as the one the 19
I sold for you, I still travail & try to hold up Christ
my glorious Master to sinners, yet I never shall
be a nuisance for him who has done so much for me, not he
The same characters of note have found their habitation
on the us. yet a great number hold up the precious & yea
Truth, this I write from Mecklenburg County Virginia
at my brother in laws, & a dear Brother I hope in the New
with his wife both in the Lord, his name is Lewis Roff
son to the Old Sisters you preached at when you was in
Virginia, she is gone to glory since Christmas with
the Evadine she expected of meeting her friend, - Old
Elder Lay has bin very much afflicted with disease
fits of the Colic, which looks as if it would end his
days, the Brethren & Elder Cairney in Richmond
I hope will they with a number of the ministers of
Brethren hold you in much love & esteem, are often
making mention of you, Elders Buskett & Read of
North Carolina have published the Hokeker Association
History, my Dear mother I hourly expect to hear of his death,
I must now take my leave of my dear Old Elder
who promised to pray for me, & I humbly beg will may
not forget me, I labour under many difficulties & trials
from without & from within from friends & from foes,
If I never see your face in time again, may the blessed hope
of being with you the dear Lord give thro. his grace
I cherish me, & protect your dear family which I long
to be remembered to, each of them, with all my dear Brethren
with my Best love,

And be pleased to accept the same
Dear Elder from your Little Travail & Brother

Wm - Brome -

William Strane
Mar. 15. 1805.
Recd. April 18. —
J. W.

Answered April 19. 1805

Elder Isaac Backus Do
State
Massachusetts W. England
Dorm of Middlebury
D. Pratt —

Dear Elder
I Received your kind letter of April the 19th
1805 from which I can truly say it Rejoiced my heart
if Remained in the office a long time my not be-
ing at Richmond & was on long journey & from there some
length of time, I often think of my dear Elder & your
family, & numbers of my dear Brethren in New-
England. Which I remember with the greatest Love and affection
I would have come to see you one more before your life
time, but I am getting in age & an opportunity has not
offered - I did not mind coming to New England some years
back to visit my Eld Elder & Brethren, but have nothing of
that degree of health as formerly, I feel for you in your ad-
vance age & your debilitated state of health, But bless the Lord
that he has uphelden you till this, yes dear Elder as you
say who can mistrust his Almighty sufficiency his great
aidings, I also Rejoice to hear of the gracious work of
God going on in the Eastern States, I have just Returned from
journey to the South where I have been very sick, yet I
bless the Lord I am much mended, the work of the Lord
does not appear so great in the hearts & minds of poor
sinners as some time past, the professors maintain their
ground in general, & some Churches have considerable
increase, Our hearts wish for its prosperous advancement,
In Virginia it does not appear so much in some Churches
as formerly, from what I have seen & heard the great Re-
newed gracious kingdom is making of its way in the South
and middle States, in the Western they are not so prosper-
ous to appearance as in time past, the games & some others
of those attendances as Barking dancing &c. have hurt
the External part of Religion as well as the Core also
in the Western States, it does not progress much in
Virginia & Southern parts - Our Methodist Brethren are
much Engaged in Camp meetings & it is said they have
a great many converted tho I must was at one, there was
one Mr Loomis come from the State of Connecticut

Has traveled in many parts of North America & some in
Europe has drawn many to him he is a great American,
an, & is a great Orator he is in the Methodist Line tho
they don't receive him - there full connections yet he
is much admired by them, & he has a train of admirers
of the world, yet the Baptists remain general unsha-
-ken, God grant they may continue thro his Grace!
We are forming a Missionary Society in the part of Vir-
-ginia & North Carolina we beg your prayers & all
our Brethren to the Lord for his Blessing - we
have seen & highly esteem it, now this is
such Commotion in Europe O that America
might be humble & industrious to spread the
precious gospel among the poor heathen Tribes
The most of your Old friends are in health at present
We have had a very sickly fall my Old Elder stay at
whose house I thought this enjoys better degree of health
with his than he has done some years past Elder
country is in health tho he has bin afflicted in his
family & one of his daughters very poorly yet Bro.
Ellott of Richmond has bin very low Elder Bushett
has lost his wife Elder Read rejoices to hear from
you Elder Mastin Ross is highly gratified also. In
all your Old Acquaintances are inquiring after &
hope to meet with you if not intimate in that word
of Undull'd glory, Elder Watkins I have not seen since
I Return'd, but he is on a Tour, I hear he has wrote
several times one of which is Lately, I can't have wish'd
to have bin convenient when he wrote in the summer
& sent your money for your Books, yet he has
more faith than my self, tho letters go & Return some-
-times they fail, & Especially those that contain
money Or Notes, according as you mentioned I make

Inquiry at Richmond for some one who Trade to Boston
But could not have that Convenience for ~~it~~ your money
I could wish, and am afraid you may think had of it,
there is a brother Smith from New England who has bin
in Richmond & in Virginia this 8 months for his health,
altho he preaches yet is very poorly, I had hoped to
send it by him as I wrote a friend in my absence to
let him have it for you, it has bin in the hands of
my father like & Elder Gay there waiting an opportu-
nity I must acknowledge had I bin more industrious
I might have done better, but when opportunities offered
I was not in place, & many times neglecting some for
better — — I Received in the Box of books last sent
5 of your third Volume Church History at 7/6
£3.15.0 and the others which were of different sorts &
2.10.0 making in the hole 21. Dollars which if you
git a safe hand shall send you before I leave Richmond
or have it with a friend to act if an opportunity
offers — as in a few days I shall the Lord willing go
a Tour of visiting — It is wth best to draw
a bill on Elder Gay who will pay it which will
prevent any miscarriage — or the safest way
M^r. Manning or Loring by your authority, be there
Dear Elder to not forget me, I Remember your
Promise & think I never shall forget it to pray
for me, Dont fail to write to me, the most unwor-
thy — dont fail Dear Elder I Rejoice the dear Brethren
& your poor little Travelling Brother — I want
and some of the Hibernian Histories of the Baptists
Brothers Manning & Loring, if ^{they} they would sell ^{them} my best
love to all my Brethren & your dear family & be pleased to
except the same of I. of that Elder from your worthy Bro,
I'll death ^{be the same}
W. B. after Gay has send his love to you

William H. Adams.
Recd. Feb. 14. 1806.
8 5.

Edith Place Barhu

town

Dir Foot-

of middlebury
State of New-Hampshire

Reverend Sir Dedham September 5th 1772

I received your letter July the beginning of July: but am sorry there is such a groundless suspicion of my having notion that sinners can ~~turn~~ themselves: and so much impudently said upon it.

and I must confess I am not like to profit by the answers: for to mention no other then that of truth: there is no ~~other~~ ^{answer} to it then that God is and ever will be true to all the promises he makes:

I scruple it not nor was ever I simple I hope as to ask such a question as such ^{an} answer could be fit for: but how does that tell me the odds between the imperfection of such a display of mercy: and ^{the} imperfection of such a display of truth: so God is and ever will be merciful to all objects of mercy as far as I know: and it is as much a denial of the perfection of Gods mercy to say he is merciful to some and not to others as it ~~is~~ ^{is} of the perfection of his truth to say he is true to some and not to others: both alike denials of the divine perfection ~~for aught~~ I see and the question: and can't be answered without either owning or denying of it: there is the same negation in both: and the same contrariety and inconsistency: so that is what Mr Backus has to do if he pleases to answer the question to tell whether one is not as much a denial of the perfection of Gods mercy or mercifulness as the other is or would be or can be of the perfection of his truth or faithfulness: I have neither a negative nor positive answer to that & the like may be said of the biggest part of them.

but the truth ^{of doctrine} therein is asserted by the certainty of the truth of the bible: but since the literal sense of the scripture may be too much insisted upon I think I may boldly say that when we do not understand understand the scripture so as not to contradict it self nor deny Gods perfections it is an

infallible sign we do not understand: ~~if I say it is~~
it right or I if I may not affirm it to be so I call
it so

for if there be a divine nature; and if that nature be the essence of
of Gods mercy as well as of his other attributes, then according to the doc-
trine of sovereign grace God acts contrary to his nature.

for if impotent sinners are objects of mercy in Gods account - and it be
natural to God to have mercy on such, then God denies himself in not
having mercy on them all.

if God oftens them not objects of mercy, and if it be not natural to have
mercy on such then God compels himself and acts by compulsion in having
mercy on any

if it be contrary to Gods nature to have mercy on all, it can it be consistent
with his nature to have mercy on any

if it be contrary to his nature to pass by all, then it can, not be consistent
with his nature to pass by any

either having mercy upon some or not having mercy upon others must
be contrary; they can, not both be consistent with one and the same
nature, except some are objects of mercy and are not

God acts not like himself, and is not the same God, in withholding mercy
from the same kind of persons, and in the same situations as them
that according to that doctrine he has ~~mercy~~ mercy on

and I would ~~know~~ willingly ~~know~~ whether when God created man in
his own image
he created such a nature in man if it be proper to call it a nature, or

whether the law or gospel requires or allows such a nature in man now
as to pity some, and not others that are no less objects of pity; or whether
such a nature in man be the image of God?

if such a nature in man be the image of God, then there is more
godly people than I thought there was; and Godliness is an other
thing than ever I was aware of

but without doubt God has mercy on whom he pleases and nothing
can hinder him; but I pray Mr Backus to consider whether a
my thing thing can please him less than having mercy upon all
objects of mercy; if any thing less than that can please God less
than that I am very much mistaken

can a merciful God laugh at a sinners calamity and not mock when
his fear comes because himself would not have mercy on him
when there is nothing in the sinner to hinder him
then I have no true idea either mercy or ~~one~~ cruelty

Desiring to be remember'd Sir;
concerning this.

and wishing success to your other labours
and travels

I subscribe my self your faithfull Servant

Josiah Briggs

Mr To
Isaac Backus
of Middleborough

Josiah Briggs
Wrote, Sep. 5. 1772.

Recd. Nov. 3.
L. B.

you = that the Best account that i can find when i and a neighbor
was Baptised was in the year = 1749 = in November or December
and i have the account from Sister Nuland and think it
is true = as to the number i am not Capable to a Cert = (but i think
Twenty or more) from yours
Jahary Briggs

Horton October 11 1783

Jabez Briggs
Letter Oct. 11. 1483.
(Norton)

Recd. Oct. 16
L. B.

Recd. 7c
Gle. Paul Backus
Middlebrough
with care in spec.

A few Lines are to inform you Dear Brother though
I am not with you with my body presents I am
with you in Spirit Scavenging the load I bring
week and low in a slow Consumption
wing near the gates of Death in my own
wishes I desire you would join in prayer
for me to all mighty God and Jesus Christ
that he would be pleased in his
infinite Love and mercy and free grace
to give me much of his precious presents
from the dark valley of the Shadow of
Death for the Loving power of the Lord is
better than Life and I have had a desire to
and be with Christ which is fear beater
these his servants shall leave him
and than shall see him face to face
I have a desire to leave sinfull flesh and
bellem wounds but I would wait for the
desire the prayers of Gods Dear
children that Jesus Christ send us
that Electing Love of God that is
our Eternity that flood in to these
wounds must needs flow back again
Jesus Christ the fountain of all good
and I feel Love rest in Jesus Christ
at Present and I ^{hope} you do to I desire
the Prosperity of Zion Mary Briggs
your Sister for Jesus sake
Boston September 27 20 1726

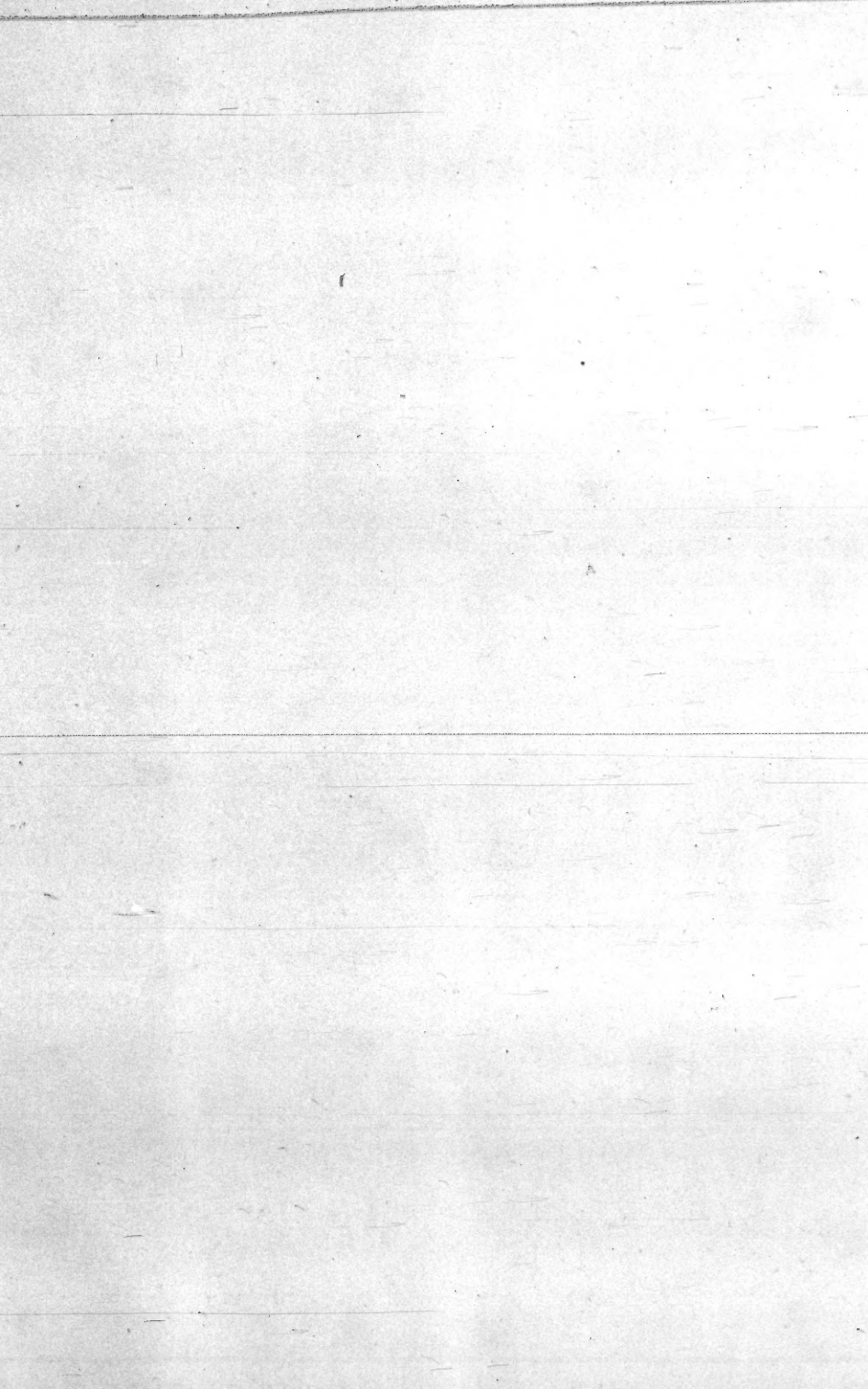
Mary Briggs
letter Sept. 20. 1456.

De me
Isaac Backus

stays with (me)

th
Sep. 20. 1456.
Dighton

My 8 rec.
Sep. 20. 1456.
at Dighton
The woman
I never saw
S. B. -



Caroline County, Maryland, April 17, 1839.

Esteemed Brother.

If these lines should be so favored by Providence as to find you, they will disclose to you a person with whom you have no personal acquaintance, and whose name, perhaps, you have seldom ~~heard~~ (if ever) heard of; but who, nevertheless, ~~aspires~~ aspires to the claim of relationship with you, in the Gospel, thro' the inconceivable, unmerited grace of the Father of Mercies; and who has long heard of and respected your character as a Father in Israel. Yea, more; I once was favored with the opportunity of hearing you preach, at Shackleford's M.H. in this County—(on St. Paul's allegory concerning the Bond Woman & the Free): It has probably been 9 or 10 years ago—when I was but a youth, and ^{had} lately had an experience of the riches of redeeming Grace.

I might well apologize for obtruding a Letter on you, under these circumstances, were I not persuaded that the Gospel of Jesus has a happy tendency to break down the barriers of formal ceremony, and to give kindred minds that communions which is among the choicest blessings of the Church militant.

I have been engaged several years in attempting to promote
the

the cause of God and Truth - and humbly trust that I have had some reasons to believe that God has been with me; but alas! these evidences are much fewer in number & smaller in degree than I (could wish; - tho' at the same time more & greater, certainly if they be at all) than I deserved.

The state of religion, in our regions of the earth, as far as I can observe, or hear, is generally in languishing rather than flourishing. - Infidelity & impiety have for some time lamentably prevailed - (and even professors of the Gospel are I fear, too inattentive both to experimental & practical religion: our situation, however, tho' very unlike what it has been (generally) is still attended with some hopeful appearances - There are at times, sweet effects attending the ministration of the Word & Ordinances - (and amidst the general gloom, the Lord has lighted up (as I have understood) several little fires, here and there, which, while they shed a pleasing lustre, give some reason to hope for a more extensive flame. A still better foundation, as I conceive, for such a hope - a better than any outward appearance is, the unchangeable word of an unchangeable God. were ^{it} not for his word, appear-

ances indeed would often make the disciples ready to despair.

We are much agitated here with politics - the measures of the administration form the grand point upon which there is much more division & contention at present, than about foreign politics - I pray that the fears of many may be ground up, and that liberty, peace, and union, may still bless the inhabitants of our Land. - What a privilege have we, amidst foreign convulsions, and domestic contentions, there a rock upon which we may confidently repose! "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth." - Before I conclude, suffer me, dear sir, to offer you my respectful love - and to ask an interest in your prayers, for a junior Bro. and unworthy fellow Laborer, in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thos. W. Broabous

nothing is no man. make me a man of God
Polines that is a down right conformity to God

Elder Isaac Backus—

Middleborough.

Massachusetts.

Care of—

Mt. Wm. Bramo

Minst. of the Gospel }

Answered,
April 1799,
Rec. July 3.
9.23.

Answered

July 11. 1799.

Dear Sir — Monbourn June 9 24th 1749

This Day I received yours and was Glad and
joyfull to hear those things contained there in
the present time will not allow me to write one half
of what is in my heart to write to you But I can only make
some remarks upon yours to me. For I am your friend in the 1st
place that we are not personally acquainted which is true to
yet Sir It seems to me you are something considerably known
to me you are pleased to write to me in such a plain manner
that methinks I am something acquainted with you though unknown
yet known — In the 2^d place you charitably venture
to say you hope we have both one Religion the Lord say
it to truth — In the 3^d place you hope we are both bound

to one Eternal home God all mighty Jesus
as to the 2^d thing namely that you hope or believe we have
both one Religion that will be the best known when
you and I shall stand before the almighty Godhead
yet I am so far if I know my own heart I can say heartily
amen to your description thereof wishing from the bottom
of my heart that I may through Gods conformance to it in heart
and life for my part I own no other Religion for Jesus Christ
but that which conforms the soul to God and inclines the soul
to walk in the way of holiness in herit life
your Charity seems to be extend yet further and say you hope
we are both bound to one Eternal hope which Sir I grant
is the natural consequence of the former O true Religion
for they are inseparably connected and joined for without
holiness no man shall see the Lord But those that have
holiness that is a down right conformity to God in heart and
life shall say they can not but see the Lord men and Devils
shall not be able to separate them from the Love of God
which is in Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

you are at home giving the true account of this true
Religion of Jesus Christ upon your own heart which God
be praised for and you be humbled in the dust at his
footstool for indeed you have nothing to glory of before
God all of Gods grace not of works
that I am about to set up my self as Teacher of the same
But I am Sir I am even constrained thus to break for from
the foundation to the top stone Grace Grace unto
us and will be the Language of the Redeemed
of the Lord to all eternity.

And now Sir I would Give you some account of Religion
among us But I trust that It done by a more Capable
Jude than my self & Mr. ^{Byram} I mean as to Generalls
yet as to Particulars I may know some things that he
Is not so well acquainted with as in Particular my self
I have sometimes Lene It I do not because my self & the
Lord hath bene pleased to let me see something of his
Glory In his Perfections and Divine attributes But alas
for me my Leanness testifies to my face I know
a very little of God and Christ many are the
oppositions I feel In my heart to God and Goodness
all times In deed some times Through him that Is Stronger
then the Strongest I hope I feel my Lust! That
but they up and all again so that I think I have
said It with sincerity and can say It again

And Thus my life while here he do
Is keene and full by turning
my soul that now In Goshen dwells
anon In Egypt mourns

And now Sir ^{Lord} Be with you and all those that
Love our Lord Jesus Christ In truth Give my Love
my unfained Love to all the Saints In particular to those
Whome I have here In the flesh Give my Love
to my Brother Woods and tell him that my
Wife gives her Love to him and say that through Grace
she fees Christ to be the chief of a mong 10.0000 and
all together lovely Give my Love to my dear Brother
hinds tell him to Live to God and continually Pray
for me Give my Love to my Brother Edson
tell him to keep his garments white
Leat he walk naked and the world be his shame
Pray Sir tell all the Saints to walk worthy of Jesus
Christ In all things Giving none offence
neither to Jew nor Gentile nor to the Church of
Christ

And now let suffer your unknown friend to say
Something to your self Respecting your sacred calling
If I am truly informed you sustain the character
of a minister of our adorable Lord Jesus Christ
O let me remember for your warning
the dreadfull case of those that are your faithful
stewards when your Lord shall come and demand of you
what you have done with the sacred trust and the
doctrines therein contained and also what you have
done with the souls of those committed to your charge
and also how have you dispensed with my childrens bread
have you for my lambs have you fed my
hittly kindred the word of life O for ever
and the Lord make you faithful and
encourage me in that, turn
rightness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever
I rest for your friendly way of writing to me gives me this
freedom with you O let it be your constant care to please
Christ in all things and may the God of all grace
prosper your Endeavours to win souls to Jesus
Which is the desire of your unknown friend
To serve Jeremiah Brown

This was a man that I
have heard considerable
of though I never saw
him. He was much devoted
to God I esteem it a
considerable Privilege to have

Isaac
Baikus

this Letter from him

And now for I would Give you some account of Religion
among us But I trust that It done by a more Capable
Judg than my self V^r Mr. ^{Byrom} I mean as to Generall
yet as to Particulars I may know some things that he
Is not so well acquainted with as in Particular my self
I have for some time since If I don't Deceive my self of the
Lord hath bene Pleas'd to Let me see some thing of his
Glory in his Persecutions and I'mre almost sure But alas
for me my Leanness testifyeth to my face I know
Very little of God and Christ many are the
oppositions I feel in my heart to God and Goodness
at times In bad some times Through him that Is Stronger
then the Strongest I hope I feel my Lusts Kept
But they up and all again so that I think I have
said It with sincerity and can say It again

And thus my life will here be so

It turns and helts by turns

my Soul that now in Goshen dwells
anon in Egypt mourns

And now ^{2nd} I'll be with you and all those that
Love our Lord Jesus Christ in truth Give my Love
my unfained Love to all the Saints in Particular to those
Whome I have known in the flesh Give my Love
to my Brother Woods and tell him that my
Wife gives her Love to him and say that though Grace
shewes Christ to be the chief of a mong 10.0000 and
all together Love Give my Love to my dear Brother
hinds tell him to Live to God and continually Pray
for me Give my Love to my Brother Edmon
tell him to keep his garments white
Leat he walk naked and the world be his shame

Pray for all the Saints to walk worthy of Jesus
Christ in all things Giving none offence
neither to Jew nor Gentile nor to the Church of
Christ

And now let suffer your unknown friend to say
Something to your self Respecting your sacred calling
If I am truly informed you sustain the character
of a minister of our adorable Lord Jesus Christ
I remember for your warning to the faithful
the dreadfull case of those that are your faithfull
stewards when your Lord shall come and demand of you
what you have done with the sacred Bible and the
doctrines therein contained and also what you have
done with the souls of those committed to your charge
and also how have you dispensed with my childrens bread
have you fed my lambs have you fed my sheep have you
truly sowed the word of life O Sir I bid for these things
and the Lord make you faithfull and for your abundant
encouragement I bid you that, turneth many to
Rightness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever
I thank you for your friendly way of writing to me gives me this
freedom with you O let it be your constant care to please
Christ in all things and may the God of all Grace
Prosper your Endeavours to win souls to Jesus
Which is the desire of your unknown friend
To serve Jeremiah Brown

This was a man that I
have heard considerable
of though I never saw
him. He was much devoted
to God I esteem it a
considerable Privilege to have

Isaac
Baikus

this Letter from him

From J. J. J. J.
June 24. 1749

Nothing

one. Brown
letter from the
J. J. J. J.
1749.

Isaac Banks
In W. J. J. J.
I Received This
Letter Oct. 30. 1749
I Wrote To him
June 12. 1749

The Place Where he lived
Was formerly called, Roccitas
but now it called Mendon
It is in East new jersey
This Jeremiah Brown
Died in about a month
after he Wrote this
Letter
Isaac Banks

Rev. Sir

Providence Apr. 4, 1788

Some months ago, and again yesterday
I rec'd. letters from Our mutual Friend Morgan
Edwards requesting me to call on you for a Manuscript
Pamphlet of his Word to him as soon as may be
he mentions to have ^{written} Mr. Thurston of New York about
it, but having heard nothing about it I suppose
he must have forgot it. I wish you dear Sir
to forward C. Manuscript Pamphlet of the first
Opportunity. — I send with you on the
top of your Daughter, which D. Manning this day
tells he has just heard — I hope these may find you
I all the Rem^d. of your good Family in health
I am with every Respect your most
Obedient & Affectionate Son

Victor Brown

Mr. Edwards has sent me a num^r. of the enclosed Pamphlets
to sell @ 5. Ap. Gene., & one to be returned if you
don't choose to buy it — Perhaps you can
find a market for some of them, as it is not in my way

Rev Mr. Backus —

Det. of Practice

W. H. Brown
Ap. 4. 17 58
No. 2. 4. 4. 3
Don. by Mrs. A. L. A. L.

Wm. L.

I am to be at Mr. Luce's Woods in the morning
to get an execution, ^{decreed} I have from Wm. L. Luce.
against Mr. Luce, who formerly signed as Paymaster
connected with your Church - My dear
Will admit should be glad you would come down
See our proceedings you'll oblige yours, &c. Wm. L.

Wm. L.

Rev. Mr. Brackett

Mr. Brown.

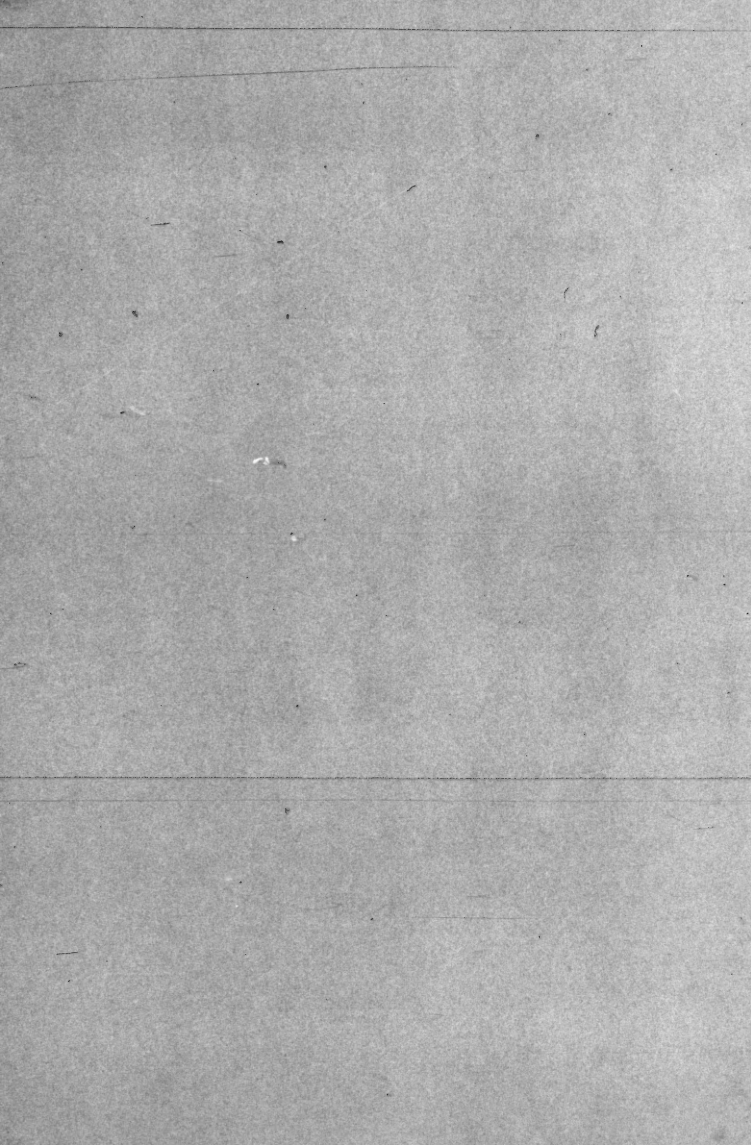
Recd. Nov. 15. 1785.

D. B.

Rev. Mr. Parker

Duxbury

Henry M. Swift



Christ Woe Do in
Sussex County Virginia 20th July 1797

Dear Sir - Will a few lines of enquiry be acceptable
from an Obscure Brother. Religion being at
so low an ebb with us error & vice continuing with
their brazen face walking abroad, & both in Town & Country
shedding their banefull Influences. Sun Moon & Stars
Having measurably disappeared for many days. I am
led to ask of My dear Bro. as a Scribe ready Instructed
in the Kingdom & Dispensations of God. Whether Religion
Wears the like gloomy aspect in New England & whether we may
expect that in given the perfection of beauty God will shortly
Shine. I hope we have a few names with us both Elders &
Laymen that have not defiled their garments. who wait for
the return of their Lord in his Spiritual Kingdom as those
who watch for the Morning. But oh how discouraging
how affecting the Watchmans Complaint. We have toiled all
night & caught nothing. I hope better success attends
you & fellow helpers in the Gospel. Dr Bro let us join our
most fervent prayers to Almighty God for the out pouring
of his Holy Spirit upon our Sons & Daughters & Countrymen
in general that Jesus may be shortly acknowledged King of the
whole earth. Should the dear Father Condescend to notice
the feeble & at his Leisure moments dictate a few things for the
information & direction of a Junior Bro. it will no doubt
acknowledge with the many, both of publick & private
services which has flowed from his Benevolent Heart to
the Church of God.

From the least of all in the Best of Bonds

William Brown

the Heart of his servant or servants

month at a morning. 1797

Answered July 11. 1757.
Feb. 20. 1797.
J^r. June 28.
William Brown

By 1510. 1810
New England
Wardborough
Edw^d. & Jas. Jacobs

William Brown,

Dec. 25. 1798.

Recd. July 3. - 99.

L13

Answered July 8. 1799.

Very Loving Bro,

Lee Sea County Virginia

Thro indulgent Heavens regard for the least of all his Mercies I have
The privilege of Writing to inform you that God is still good to his
People in pouring out of his spirit on some parts in his Vineyard

The Chh formerly under the care of Elder Barrow before his
Removal to Kentucky has lately had the addition of Six by
Baptism— In the county of Matthews there has been &

Still is a Considerable Revival under the Ministry of a Young
Brother by the name of Jacob Creith. There has been since
The Spring upwards of Sixty added by Baptism, but just
about the residence of your unworthy Bro. there is too just reason

To complain of a Winter in Religion. O that the time of the
Singing of birds were come & the Voice of the Turtle could be
heard in our land I doubt not the friend to your cause
to whom I write is ready to join & say amen

Do. Bro if your leisure permits favour me with a few lines,
the former was truly reviving, May God prosper you in the
latter stage & make your last days your best

So prays your Unworthy Bro, in the
best of bonds—

William Brown

Decemth. 25. 1798

Ps. A visit would be very
acceptable may God put it in
the Heart of his servant or servants
to travel thro' our region

W. B.

Elder Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Faculty of the State of Massachusetts

1870
Mr. Beane



Swanwick 14th March 1798-

My Beloved Friend

Dear Emmanuel - Your truly Christian and
warmest friendly letter of the

26th July last was thro' indulgent ~~Providence~~
Providence put into my hands last Evening by
that Blessed Servant of the Lord Bro. Brame,
I feel myself deeply indebted to God's grace that
you are mindful of us, who can say so little
of or for ourselves, Only that thro' divine mercy
whereas we were blind, we now see.

God has Enlarged the hearts of the Proprietors of
Slaves in this & the neighbouring vicinity, so that
we now have liberty to worship without fear, &
(Blessed be his name) thro' my unworthy labours
many has been, and yet are added to the Church.

I preached last Lord's day at White bluff about
12 miles from hence with much freedom, the
word was clothed with power, & I hope the long to
hear of some Enquiring what they must do to be
saved, with respect to the Gen. State of Religion,
I refer you to Bro. Brame who is the bearing
witness. We thank you for your Exposition concern-
ing Slavery, yet blessed be God, thro' his restraining grace
that State is become more tolerable, inasmuch as

months as a nation. however many for

we meet no Opposition in worship, we believe it
to be our duty to submit to our Masters according
to the flesh, & wait with Patience till we attain
to the happy station of freedom in the world to come.
The greatest evil we discover in Slavery, is when
Owners Exercise undue Authority, & over the
Consciences of their servants, but blessed be God
this Evil has subsided, & a happy prospect lies before
us of an uninterrupted tranquility, we are ex-
ceedingly happy to hear of the great & glorious
revivals in your Vicinity, & places more distant.
we bless the Lord for every instance of his goodness
& mercy to the Children of Men, we Earnestly
request your prayers to God for us, that he would
lead us in light thro' this dark howling wilderness,
& preserve us in Safety to his Heavenly Kingdoms.
May his Grace & goodness ever attend you, & reward
you for your affectionate remembrance of us,
but Particularly of me the least among his saints,
& tho' we may never behold each other in the
flesh, yet I humbly hope that we shall join
together to shout his praises when time shall
be no more, believe me to be

Dr. & Hon. Bro,

Y. most aff. tho' unworthy
Bro. in Gospel Bond!

Andrew Bryan

Christ we desire the
few lines may find you in

Andrew Bryant
Mar. 14. 1798
Dec. Mar. 10. 1799.
8 ps.

Andward
July 11. 1799.

Elder, Isaac Backus
Pastor of a Church
at Middleborough

month at a narrow boarder many for

Decemth 22 1766 Dear Brother
and Sister in Christ wee desire the
few lines may find you in good health
as we are at this present time
know Gods tender mercies which
we have reason to bless his name
will inform you the dealings
of God with us in his wonder
full power and grace by his con
vincing and Convanting many
Soulds to him self ^{more} one in Elders
hixs house and two in this un
worthy ^{house} just now sitting wee
desire your prayers and praise to
God for Sion that they may
stand in the worck of the Lord
and wee desire to see you if the
Lord lead your mind so no more
at this present time but I rema
in you on worthy friend
Eleanora Bullock

Elizaveth B. B. B.
Dec. 22. 1965

To Elizabeth

Darius with

- Care

from Elizabeth

Dec. 22. 1965

Ad. Jan. 33.

9. B.

Savannah Jan'y 27th 1795

Dear Brother

We have heard of you, and read
of you, and love you in the Lord. We send
this to open a Correspondence with you
and though our outward man is black
we hope you do not despise us;

We regret you and God's people
with pray for us we are distressed and
persecuted, but hope to trust in the Lord;
we have built a place of worship, but
have not had the opportunity of enjoying
it much, since it was built, we have
been prohibited from preaching in it
for four months at one time and two
months at another. Brother pray for
us

Sign Church
888-33-1795
888-33-1795

us; that the Lord would grant us Grace
to wait in his fear, and give us favour in
the eyes of those that rule over us; we shall
be happy to hear from you, and our B.^m
at the Northwood, we are destitute of the
Word here in a great measure, there are
a few of our white Brethren visit from
abroad, but very few; from your age we
cannot expect you here, but should be
glad some of the Ministering B. would
visit us. we conclude dear B. with our
sincere love in a Blessed Jesus

Andrew Bryan & Church.

Answered July 26. 1797, by J. Backus.

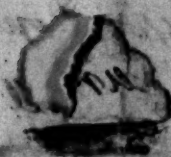


Sir my Regard to you Hoping these lines will
find you and your family well as mine is thank
Devin goodness Sir I desire ~~to~~ ^{that} you would ~~send~~ ^{let}
me your farm one yer mor If you can Consistant
with your gntrest I will give you as much as
ane body will give and if we cant agree I will leave
it to ane body to say how much I talk of ~~buying~~
purchasing a lot of land a bout a mile of and there
s no hous on it I will pay you the money for your
farm one yer mor and if I cant have the ^{farm} I shold
be glad to have som part of it Pray send me a letter
or let me know som other way as ^{soon} as ~~possible~~ as
possible this from your humbel servant and
and weel wisher

Joseph Burges

Canlebuary march the 16 Day 1776

To Mr Jas Backus



J. J. Burgess & Co.
 recd. Mar. 16. 1946.
 recd. Mar. 24.
 About 9.11.

To our
 Grace Wacker
 24th
 and Ellborough
 W.C.

To Mr. J. J. Burgess & Co.



North Carolina, Northampton Co. 1st Dec. 1796.

And Dear Bro.

Bro. William Brame, who has just called on me, informs me that he is about to travel into New England, and wishes me to write a few Lines to you, my dear aged and much respected Brother, which I hope you will receive as a Mark of my Brotherly Affection and Esteem to my unknown Brother, and may I hope serve as Key to open a Door of Correspondence. I have never as yet had the Pleasure to behold your Face or hear your Voice notwithstanding you were once in our State. I was prevented from the Opportunity of seeing you — The Intelligence I have now to communicate I must confess is not very entertaining — Religion in N. C. has been in Years past flourishing but at present on the Decline — Our Association lately convened but it is the general Complaint amongst all the Churches — Dr. Rippon writes me agreeable Intelligence from Europe — From Letters rec^d from Virginia I understand that Religion seems lively in some Parts, I hope it is in a growing Circumstance with you — Error seems at present to prevail but little, The Dangerous Systems of Ho. Pain and Winchester gain but little ground — The Methodists rather are on the Decline — There appears a to be a very great Scarcity of Grains in our State at present, and has been very much so the Year past. Indian Corn has sold for 10 Dollars p^r Barrel last Year, in some places but not so much in general — and yet the Judgments have but very little effect on the People — I hope I shall be able to communicate more pleasing Intelligence in future, — At the present Time I rest, your most Obed^t Serv^t & Bro^r in Christ

Lem. Burkitt



Anfuerd July 3. 1794.

James Burket.
Dec. 1. 1796.
Age. June 23-97.
9.13.

Dr. Mr D

Joac Packus

Middleborough

Massachusetts.

Northampton, N. Carolina Jan. 23. 1799 -

Dear and respectable Bro.

I take this Opportunity, (by Bro. Brame who has just called on me a few Hours) to convey a few Lines to you as a token of my most cordial Affection to you. I rec^d. yours, some time past by the little Bro., for which you will please to accept my warmest Thanks; believe me, dear Bro. it met with a kind Reception, and it gives me peculiar pleasure that I can get a few Lines sometimes from my dear and respectable Brethren in the Ministry, whose Faces I never saw. It would afford me greater Satisfaction if I had some agreeable Intelligence to communicate to you, in Return for your kind Favor: But alas! alas! Times are extremely alarming with us in regard of Religion. I trust I have converted about 28 Years, have ^{been} in the Ministry 27 and am now 49 Years old. I know that it was the free electing Love in Christ Jesus that first converted my Soul, and I believe that Love will keep me from falling finally away, and by it I hope to reach the Heavenly Kingdom - But I would ^{to} God I could say (with regard to the Prosperity

I ship a box of books, containing 66 Histories of the

of Zion "O that it were, as in years past." Religion
has grown cold, and Sinners grow very bold. —
Dear Bro. I beg, sincerely an Interest in your prayers
I hope the Lord will again visit poor North-Carolina

Dear Bro.

I expect you have a Correspondence with Dr. Puffor.
if so, I would thank you, if you would be so very Ob-
liging as just to remind him in your next, that I
have not rec^d. any Letter or Registers from him for
some time, neither have I had an Opportunity to
write to him, or send the Balance of my Acct with
him. The Money has been a long time ready but I
have lacked an Opportunity, as I live 90 miles
from Portsmouth where I generally rec^d. his Let-
ters and Books, and Bro^s Armistead who for-
merly lived in Portsmouth is removed from the place
and I cannot always meet with a Conveyance
when I go ~~thence~~ there.

I heartily wish you abundance of Peace, Love
and the Presence of the dear Redeemer

I feel glad that I have had the Pleasure to read your
third Volume of the History of New England — I
hope your writings will prove a Blessing when

your Law can ^{be} seen no more here.

Time, and other Convenience, bids me wind up my hasty
Scroll. I hope If I never see you in this World we shall
have a glorious meeting in a better World. Under these
Confidurations I bid you farewell,

I am, believe me, dear Bro. in the sincerest
Bonds of the Gospel yours forever

Leamth Burckell



I ship a box of books, containing 66 Histories of the

Answered Aug 6. 1799.

Samuel Barker,

Jan. 28. 1799,

Recd. Aug 3.
1799.

New-England

Middleborough

Dr. Bro. Bromie

Elder Isaac Backus

North-Carolina, July 21st 1807

Rev & dear Bro.

At the request of Elder Backus, of Middleboro'
I shipped a box of books, containing 66 Histories of the Kes-
hukus Association, which were sent on to N. York, the
12th of May 1806, directed to your care. I have never
as yet received any information whether they ever ar-
rived at Boston, or came to Elder Backus. I have
lately understood that he was dead, but do not know the
certainty of it. If you would make some inquiry about
the Books, and whether they be sold or not, and write me
by the mail, directing your letter to me in Northampton
County, N. C. and directed to the post office in Murfrees-
borough, you will do me a singular favour.

Elder Backus's request for the books was sent me by Rev.
Benjamin Watkins of Virginia in a letter, in which, these
are his express words. "Brother Isaac Backus and myself have
" kept up a correspondence by way of letter and minutes ever
" since he was in Virginia in '89; and during the last year
" he wrote to me three times, and in two of his last he requested
" me to contrive him some of your Histories, if possible, or
" to let you know of it, and send him some; as he had heard of
" your book, and had a great desire to read one, and not get
" so, but would make ^{you} them for, as they would

"intirely new among the brethren." He further adds,
"Brother Backus mentioned in his letter that he ex-
pected vessels traded from Boston to some of your
towns in N. Carolina and could be easily sent to
him. — Provided you have not parted with all
your books and would feel free to send the good old
Father some I think you would get your money, as
he is a man of confidence."

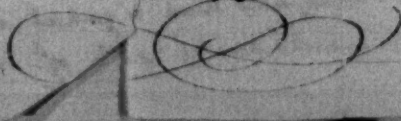
On the reception of this letter sent ^{immediately} a box of Histories
directed to your care, at Boston.

If remittance could be made to M^r. John Wheeler
in Murfreesborough, or to M^r. George Outlaw in
Windsor ^{for me}, by any vessels trading to said Towns it would
safely come to hand I make no doubt.

It is not in my power to communicate such a
greeable intelligence respecting the state of religion as
formerly: But blessed be ^{God} the churches seem to hold their
own, and are in tolerable good standing. Any informa-
tion from you respecting the state of religion in your
regions would be thankfully received.

I am, dear Bro. with the greatest respect yours
in the fellowship of gospel, and in the best of bonds,

Levi Burdett



P.S. With this, probably may come to hand a letter directed to E. Backus, or his Heirs &c. if you will be so very obliging as to forward the said letter you will confer an obligation on your most Obedt. M^o

N.B. The price of the said Books is 1 dollar each }

See

L. B.

... state a case even opened to me with great clearness, I obtained a clear satisfaction of a Call from God, to the work of ^{and not alone} them: which I told them beforehand, must take place, or, they would ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~lost~~ ^{lost} with these views, I came over to live with them, in M^o as enabled to go through abundant labours, Trials & Difficulties, and, 'til near 5 years had expired, with a little success, that I was to faint, be discouraged, & depart from them: (just during this Time of reformation in the C^o. & 10 Members added) In the beginning the Lord seem'd to be about taking me away, (by a fit of the Stomach again about 7 weeks ago)

Windsor, by any vessels trading to said Town
safely come to hand I make no doubt

It is not in my power to communicate
agreeable intelligence respecting the state of
formerly: But ^{God} blessed be, the churches seem
own, and are in tolerable good standing. At
tention from you respecting the state of relig
regions would be thankfully received

I am, dear Bro. with the greatest reg
in the fellowship of gospel, and in the best

Yours
Lem. Hunt

Tiverton the 27th of the 6th M^o - 1781.

Beloved Brother

Forasmuch as there is some lines in the first Vol. of thy Right
Of New England, ^(in the preface) requesting that, "Accounts of the rise, progress & present
State of all our Churches" might be transmitted to thee; for publication in another
Vol. — it hath appeared Duty to me to give the following account of this Church of
Christ in Tiverton, which at present is committed to my care & charge —
As to its rise, or first Settlement & Constitution, I cannot obtain so clear an account
As I would: but by conversation with several aged People around us; I have reason to
think 'twas first formed in Dartmouth; as much, if not more than 80⁺ years ago
Under the care of Elder Aaron Davis: holding particularly the 6 principles of the
Doctrine of Christ (recorded, Hebrews 1, 2.) in its first constitution, and having laid these
As a foundation, ^{for visible Building} endeavoured to leave them & go on unto perfection, in the belief & practice
Of every other principle & requirement made known to them from the Lord. —
I find records of Church Discipline &c in the year 1752 (but none further Back)
By them it appears, that the Church then consisted of about 52 members: had erected
A Meeting House in Tiverton; & ^{had been for some years before} under the care & charge of Elder Philip Taber.
Between that time & the year 1768 the travel of this Ch^h was much interrupted by
Many roots of Bitterness, & some uncommon Trials & difficulties, so that several times
They seem'd to come near a total dissolution! But by means of the great pains taken
With them by the Elders & gifted Brethren, of the Churches of Newport, Swansea & Rehoboth,
A Body was always kept together and Additions from time to time made. (tho'
Not so fast as members died) great part of this space of Time also, they had Elder
David Round to administer among them, and Brother ^(now Elder) Benjamin Sheldon to Teach.
By reason of Difficulties, a Council was call'd; and Elder Round laid down his Charge
Over them ^{about} the year 1769 from that time to my coming to live with them, the
Church consisted of about 31 Members: in a ^{small} measure of unity, kept up their meetings,
Carried on some Discipline, & were often visited by myself & other publick speakers —
But appeared so low in the exercise of Grace, & so deficient in Knowledge & Practice
In many points, that I could scarcely obtain ^{any} of the gracious state of one
Half of them! and ^{tho' they repeatedly & earnestly} nothing I think, could have moved me to come & Labour on such a
Spot, had not their state & case been opened to me with great clearness, & laid at Heart:
And I obtained a clear satisfaction of a Call from God, to the work of Reformation
Among them: which I told them beforehand, must take place, or ^{I could not abide among them.} they would cast me out
Of their Coasts — with these views, I came over to live with them, in the ^{Spring of the} year 1775
And was enabled to go through abundant Labours, Trials & difficulties, both of Body
And mind, til near 5 years had expired: with so little success, that I was many times
Ready to faint, be discouraged, & depart from them: (yet during this Time there was a
General reformation in the Ch^h & 10 Members added) In the beginning of the year
1780 The Lord seem'd to be about taking me away, by a fit of the Bilious Cholick;
(And again about 7 weeks ago) But

But as Life was spared, so I trust also the Affliction was Sanctified both to me
And the Ch^h: a many souls found occasion for great sorowings of Heart.

A remarkable spirit of Prayer was poured out on some, if not many of us, about
The beginning of ^{the following} spring; to cry for the return of Backsliders, & conversion of Sinners:
But our patience was so small (O what poor creatures we are) that we had well
Nigh fainted, & given out, just as the Lord began to display his Power! we

On the 13th of April 1780 I was ordained, as an Evangelist, with the Pastoral care
Also of this Church, for the Time being; or so far as the Lord might give Opportunity.

(I had been repeatedly call'd ^{to this work} by the unanimous voice of the Church, before - and as
often gave my reasons, why I could not comply -) on the 28th of ^{the 5th Month,} we had

A powerful visible manifestation, that the Lord was opening the blind Eyes of

Sinners (3 persons appearing under great Distress of mind & 2 giving us to understand

That they had lately found Peace in Believing the same day!) on the 6th of ^{the 6th Month} (80)

I Baptized 1 person: & between that & this, 90 more — one ^{another stands ready} ~~last 3 weeks~~

In Short, we have seen as it were, many Pentecost days, & enjoy'd Heaven on Earth!

All Glory to God, forever & ever. — The Subjects of this work seems to be of all ages,
And Circumstances in Life White & Black ^(from 15 to 60) Poor & Rich, &c according

To the Commission: They tell clear experiences of a Work of Grace, and some that have
Been Professors among us several years, ^{can} now tell their experience of something ^{new} ~~new~~

A new Conversion: Indeed I think the 126 Psalm doth clearly express what we have lately
Experienced; & I hope we are fully convinced of the Truth of the 1st verse of Psalm 127.

There are about a dozen ^(I think 12) of the subjects of this work, who have been sprinkled in days past, and
9 or 10 I think who were educated in, or inclined to the way of the Quakers — and

Altho the work seems somewhat over, with respect to ingatherings into the Ch^h yet the
Lord is Pouring out his Spirit on his Servants & handmaids, whereby they ^{become} mighty in

Prayer, & are made able to exhort & comfort one another, ^{many also are yet under} ~~some~~ ^{concern of mind, &c} & ^{among us, by proper discipline} some few members have gone

Out of the way, such as remain Spiritual, have hitherto been enabled to reclaim & restore

All but one! — in fine the Ch^h now consists of 134 Members Travelling in

Great Love and unity — 105 of whom have been gathered since I laboured here, and

We desire an Interest in the Prayers of all the Saints, that we may stand fast in the

Faith — Grow like the Corn — and flourish like the Cedars of Lebanon — So wishing

Grace, Mercy & Peace, may be multiplied to you & all the Saints — that Lion may

yet more abundantly & universally prosper, & become the praise of the whole Earth —

And particularly requesting for myself (as the work I'm call'd to is great: my own

Wisdom but foolishness — and my strength weakness) that I may be remembered in all

Your Prayers; that it may please the Lord to carry me on & thro' the ^{great} work to his

Glory & the Good of souls. I subscribe myself, thy unworthy Brother in the Gospel

Peter Burroughs.

in the fellowship of gospel, and in the best

P. S. 'twould be very acceptable to us to be visited by thee
when convenient opportunity presents - and in the mean
Time to receive an Epistle — P. B.

P. S. the 2^d - Since I wrote the foregoing I have conversed with ^{more} 2 or 3 of our
Old Members, who seem strongly persuaded; that this Church was first
settled soon after the first Church at Newport: and before the Church
of Swansea - ^{Joseph} Mosier being Preacher or Elder before Davis.
Likely I Eld: Peirce or Eld: Mason can give better information
of this matter. I also thought proper, at our Church
Meeting, the day after I wrote the above, to read the whole slowly &
distinctly before the Church: and the whole Church have assented and
concurred with me in the foregoing facts just as they stand ~~and~~
Corrected, Interlined &c. P. B.

Isaac Backus

(Pastor of A Church of Christ)
In

Bring it
with care
and speed

Middleborough

Dr Burroughs?
Letter June 24.
1781.

Rec. July 14.

S. B.

Chh. Hist. Org.

7 After February 4 17-1794

Honored and Dear Sir

I embrace this opportunity to write
 to you, informing you that I am well
 hoping that these lines will find you
 in the enjoyment of the same bless-
 ing. Dear Sir, is it presumption have I
 signed away all weight of supplication
 to God merely, and your conscience clean
 gone? let me once more come near to you
 my aged Father, the time has been when
 I could come into your presence with appre-
 hension, and depart from you while
 you could say, the Lord be merciful to my
 young brother, and ~~his~~ fellow-labourer
 in the gospel. But how sadly has my
 own ^{injudicious} ~~injudicious~~ ^{which might and} ~~injudicious~~
 notice of such a father in Christ as I esteem
 you for to be. I am sensible the cause of
 Jesus Christ, which I have greatly wounded,
 lies near your heart, and is your care, in
 wounding of which I have wounded you
 with all the rest of my brethren, and
 especially those in the ministry; I will God
 forgive me, will my Brethren forgive
 in general. But will Father Backus and
 the rest of my brethren in the ministry
 forgive me.

I have thought it to great a blessing for
me ever to enjoy for to feel my duty for-
-en of my Brethren. but still I pray that
such a thing may be, for the dead praise not
the Lord, but the living.

I would inform you that the Brethren
at western have called a conference on my ^{quest}
but not by my request, for I was afraid
you with the rest of my Brethren would
think that I was driving matters to fast.
They were desirous to know whether I might
not be up full there. Mr Goaton being
present advised me to go down to Marsh-
field, and Mr Briggs being present told
me that he would go with me and help
-and for reconciliation, and it is the united
voice of all the Brethren but one at Western
for to go and be reconciled with my Breth-
-ren, and what took the greatest effect on
my mind was, one of my Uncles, who was in
the Town a parent to visit a friend of his,
heard of me and was very desirous to see me
after sending me word. I went for to see him
which was no small satisfaction to me for
I found both him and my aunt professors
of religion, and very much engaged, and as
I have been informed since one of the lead-
-ing characters in the Woodstock Association.
But my difficulties wounded him to the

him to the heart, so that he could not
sleep. he called me up in the latter part
of the next night to give him a true
statement of my difficulties which I did
and he told me to go and confess my
faults to my brethren and he had
faith to believe that it might be ac-
tually, and this is the voice of people in
general which I feel as free to do as ever
I did to draw a single brother in my life
and if Father Barker will write to
me when he will meet me there I will
go and confess all my transgressions to
them, or give me your advice what to
do. I would wish to write more
but time fails me. I subscribe my-
self your disaffected brother

~~Joseph~~
Joseph Butterfield

you from you we father and from our Lord Jesus Christ

Jo. Butler & Co.
No. 119 1/2
St. Louis, Mo.
For the
H. Butler in
Missouri

my afion brethern of the church of
christ in the meddety

the word I am a yoren to vite you ma
brethern jookupon of that concaron the
flory be tursi sister harney and sister
aper and I am a yorit to vite the decore y
t we had to gether and to unger to wat
w huppe what she sed and said to
she must befiue that your brother
enthe to befiue the flory a bout my
my then she sed I dont befiue my
brother tofel me one li then y
fel me by your brother. never tofel you
then. sister hupper^{ful} my brother never sed
that it was out harney then y sed didnt
you befiue that your out harney was the
gessen that your brother went and
sister hupper sed • yess •

this I adest

mary camp

bell

Le Church at Paris June 26 1906. ~~intention~~ there was a

Campbell City

1996.

To Elder Isaac Backus

Dear Sir one reason why I have not written to you before is for want of a convenient opportunity of sending; and another is that I might more ^{give} full account according to your desire, the Church in Readfield was ^{dis}incorporated in Mayth 1792 the Church in Fittle formerly called Sterling was formed by 27 1792. the Church in New Gloucester in October 1794. and that in Westford (as near as I can learn) in December following— Brother Joshua Young was ordained April 8 1795. now lives in Ippowit, in the County of Hancock, and is considered their pastor. Brother James Glover was ordained as the pastor of the Church at Paris June 25 1795. and ~~there~~ there was a small Church formed in the Red-vineyard in the County of Lincoln, August 8 1795. and another in Sutherland-canoa in the ^{Cumberland} ~~Salem~~ County, August 13th and another in Clinton September 5th up Cannebeck river where Brother Nephibishouth Cain is to be ordained Next Tuesday if the Lord will, and Brother Nchemiah Good and Brother Job Chadwick in Walsborough the Friday following—

Thus you see dear Sir the Cause flourishes in this wilderness and I trust this ~~new~~ news will rejoice your heart and lead you to give glory to the Lord of the harvest. I should be glad to have given you more full account of the State of religion in these parts but it is Lords Day morning and I am just going to meeting but I send you inclosed one of our minutes that will give ^{an} Idea of matters with us.

I subscribe my self your servant and
Brother in the Gospel of Christ Isaac Case

Readfield January 10. 1796

Isaac Cato.
Jan. 10. 1796.
Recd. Nov. 27. —
J. B.

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Jan
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a
C

Dear Brother
I receive your letter and blessed be God that I have such
an opportunity to right to each other I would let you know
about god's dealing here three nights ago we trust two
young woman (at a private meeting) changed from
darkness to light glory to god now my brother you
set to me of the great work of preaching the gospel
that indeed my soul beholds it so with what sight shame
and of it my brother I will tell you the case is with
me I cannot preach as yet to and dare not let it alone
being the work I dread I am almost like now I have
tried found no rest for her soul of her feet sometimes
I have almost into despair that the Lord helps me again
some times like Jonah wishing to die sometimes I have
mind to leave my country and sometimes with these
blasphemous thoughts as to curse god and die and others awful
blasphemous thoughts pray god to forgive me of
these things pray for me my brother that god
would direct all my ways so that god would bless you
my brother and your wife my love to your family
In Christ I desire a interest in your prayers
for a poor worm we are all well at present and
glory to god for it Brother Samuel Hicks has been
here and the Lord has been with us of truth
some more at presents But I remain yours
to serve — Richard Chase

Rich. Chase
letter Jan. 8.
1750

22

To my
Grace Baeke
Mr. Bridgman

from y^e Cap
Jan^y 8. 1750

Dear Brothers Yarmouth 20th June 20th 1751
glory to god that I have one more opportunity to rit
you may god grant that these few lines ^{may} find you in
y good health as we are all at present glory be to the great
god for it I would let you know something ^{it is} with
what I have been down to parmit I was there last sabbath
went from home last friday and returned I last tuesday and
the brathern are all well ^{there} and it was a glorys glory
to god last sabbath there was one that I went with
Lauing^{base} Conuanted glory to god that there is a nother
born to god as for god being with me sence I have seen
and sence I have rit to you the presence of ~~god~~ ^{god} with
my soul in a wonderfull mazing manner may the
my be to god alone Concerning the maters between my brother
son and I stand just as they did when I rit to you
I long to see you and to tell you by mouth for it
mater of great lamentation I am refused to be for the
through grace my love to you my brothers and to your
wife and your church earnestly desiring your prayers
all mighty god for a poor nothing Creature that I
may be Cape out of Icesful self and have the faith of
mility pray my brother take ~~a~~ a little pains and rit
Dear brother fail not to right fail not may god
aint ablessen to your soul and family aman and aman
from your unworthy brother Richard Chase

Yarmouth February 13 day 1770 Brother Backus
My kind love to you and to your family and to the
Church of Christ ~~at~~ with you I would in form
you that we are all well here and I must right
to you of gods wonders here I never knew such a
time of gods wonderfull pouring out of his spirit
in all my life it is a marvelous and glorious time of conversion
and of mortal souls crying out att the feet of Jesus
Christ crying what shall I do to be saved I trust that
I have five of my family converted my oldest son
John and his wife Berry and his wife and Samuel
wife and several more of my children under a pourfull
concern and a number more of other families Brother
Croswill hath been here about five or six weeks
I spose that he hath preached about here sixty
or seventy sermons and god hath raile been with
him and blest his labor may god ever keep him
humble Dear Dear Brother pray for us and give
thanks to god with your Church for us for god
is doing grät things here this from your unworthy
Brother Richard Chas

Dear Chase
Oct. 13. 1940

Mr
Isaac Backus
at Middleborough

Conversion W. 11.

8. 13.

Rev. Mr. Y.

Feb. 13. 1940

From Dear Chase

1531
-23-
red
Ang
hand
2/13
2/20
2/27

Wormouth april 1 Day 1772 Deare Brother these
with my kind respects to you and your wife and family
hoping through gods goodness these few lines may find
you all in good helth as they leave us I am in helth
at home it is a helthy time in gineral but Brother
Park is sick as to Rilegon the Body of the saints
it fast thir profshon with out wavern but
the Devil hath made house of som and with them
mete with the most tining time that Ever I see yet
But yet it is great teaching to me I neer wote to see
wise Brethern somuch in my life But my trust is
in the Lord Iervell thanks be to god
that we are living

Rec. May 15
8. 13.

{ Dr. Rick. (Dag.
letter, Apr. 1
1772.

Sir after many respects to and
you and yours these may inform
you through divine goodness we are
are well I have to inform you that
on the 26th day of last July their Com
the Collector of Hamwich and seap about
four or five bushels of my ry and
carried it of and sold it for one dollar
and made about two dollars charge on
it and on the 13th day of August
the same Collector Edward half came
and seap about three tons of my hay
and carried it of and sold it for
forty nine shillings and returned
me five shillings and six pence
for all this I was taxed to. their
munister but seven shillings and
apony and I have given you as an
exact account as possible thereof from
yours in Gospel Bounce
Dated 26th July
D. Jones Chase
November 12 1798

Dr. Rick. Clark
letter, Apr. 1
1772.

Recd. May 15
8. 13.

Anna (Hofe

Nov. 15. 1899.

Dec. 15. 1899.

1899.

Dr. Chase

Mr. Malin

Hamah Church's
Lett. Jan. 23. 1749.

Rec^d. Feb. 9.
S. M.

The Presby

Spair Backus in

1749
Catholbrough

Waltham January the 23rd 1779
Honored Sir I wold inform you that the Child that I have Left
and I are tolerable well at present and I had a Letter from my husband

Dated the 6 of December and he was well then for all this I have grate
Reason to thank god for his mercy to us this Child that is Living was
Long exercised with the Camp disorder was Looked upon dangerous I
Stayed with my Children and Looked after them while they Lived and I
never ^{had} any ^{of the} symptoms. all I have reason for this to sing of mercy and of Jud-
gment to Since the Death of my two Children I trust I have Learnt one Les-
son more perfectly then ever I did before the Shortness of Life ^{the} Certainty
of Death and the Dying and fading nature of all creature in ^{firmly} hea-
veloe and I pray that these Lions may find you and Mrs Backus
and all your family and all the Brethren of the Church I Long to see you
all again but if I ^{shall} hear from you exceeding glad I shall be to see you

I am a goe to Mrs Mary Harvey and Diserend to send me a note
but I never had any return nor can I hear from you whether a not
there is any added to your church or Society and whether ^{there any} conversions or
So Long from hearing the gospel preached in a powerful manner I don't sense to be
So troubled about it as I did when I first come up hear when I come from ^{home} my
Confession bare witness there was nothing that I was so Loth to Leave as gospel
priviledges as there was I think the reason that Providence call me away was
because I misimproved them and I beg your prayers for me that god wold not Lev-
me to my self nor take his holy Spirit from me I must be fore I conclude give
himt or to of sum Discorse I had a few Days a goe with a man of note a Delus pres-
er of eloquie and my rears never heard so strong a profer of all the baptis-
and all the new Lits he reckend all to gather he only found out that was of that way
he asked me what my minfer name was and I told he sayes he had seen one of your Bo-
oks intituled the bond women and the free he cast it off as nothing worth a hearing and
wished he could see the old hell bred rafe he wold confound you after some latke he
sayes the top main things we had to mind was to be Strickt up on the Sabbath and to
and the truth I told him that I thought ^{the} best thing was to see that all was done as a province
of Love to god and aming at his glory & he sayes that was a Baptis-
up on theane faith hear I must conclude
Hannah Church

far i Gratitude Dejer that you wold send me a Letter

for this way we may have Conuers to gather the Absent
Christens from to best use and redogen much out of fassen hear-

i see too that i trust are true friends of Jesus they are very
much I am and set Light by i have had a considerable of
a acquaintance with them i have heard on of them tel when he
met ~~not~~ with a change i think he talked very clear

Demer

Medfield August 4th 1798

I understand that a number of Baptist Societies have got incorporated by the civil authority. Doubtless, principally for the purpose of supporting their ministers. For my part I see no essential difference between this plan and that of a General State establishment. Because both the end and the means to accomplish it are the same. Voluntary agreement to force the support of ministers, does not argue the force will be just. 'Tis more than possible that the most shameful injustice and oppression may take place, notwithstanding the Voluntary agreement.

It is said. The members of an incorporated Society do not bind their children. But Sir you know. That institutions pretending public good, tho really bad, may in consequence of the example of fathers, be approved of by the children and become an established tradition. They may be altered, or changed from bad to worse. The incorporating Scheme, is a step towards the General establishment. 'Tis a natural introduction to union with the other ~~denominations~~ and the power is now limited to the members of a Voluntary Society. Let the plan become common among the baptists, and there is nothing to hinder a union with others in civil law religion. No union but a political one can be eligible, or consistent. This is interesting to Ministers of the standing order. This is their ultimate object in pretending friendship for the baptists - stand if the baptists want political ground to stand on. Surely the sovereign power of a State, is far better than that of a particular Society, which depends upon Voluntary and precarious obligation. Reputation and pretended advantage to the interest of religion are strong reasons in favour of sovereign authority: but only congregationalists would be the gainers. No body could leave them under pretence of conscience against supporting worship by civil law. Deceit and oppression on the side of the baptists - would divide the baptists. Besides, supporting ministers by civil law has ever been a fruitful means of bringing bad men into the ministry. Should it be said. "All that is intended by being incorporated is, only to be known in law". This is absurd. Because religious Societies exist solely on the ground of religion; and there cannot be known in law only by providing for their protection. An act of civil power to constitute a religious Society that it may be known in law is, a self contradictory and blasphemous act, originating, either in ignorance or hypocrisy. The constitution acknowledges that religious Societies exist independant of civil Government, and obliges the rulers to afford equal protection to all: and hence there is no propriety in begging protection. I fear for that many baptists wish for more than protection. He that begs for justice, acknowledges oppression to be just: and to be consistent must wish to possess the power of oppressing - then who apply to the civil authority to be constituted a religious Society,

to be consistent must wish to possess the power of oppressing - then who apply to the civil authority to be constituted a religious Society,

Give up right, and justify an arbitrary, oppressive Government. ~~Why is~~
~~the principle of~~ the principle of despotic policy have rooted out the principle of true
religion? What? Shall Christians take the sword to support the kingdom of
Christ? If this scheme goes on among the baptist, what will their enemies
say of them? Will they not, either censure them for partiality, or bestow upon
them a very dishonorable commendation; that is Commend them for giving up
truth, and repenting of doing right heretofore.

For you are no friend to this unrighteous plan - You cannot make any
apology for those brethren who have embraced it - They had not their education
in the School of tradition. With their eyes open they are strengthening the
hands of an unprincipled generation. Joining with those characters which
have always been unfriendly to the liberties of mankind, to propagate
error, and support tyranny - You are apprehensive of division and
separation among the baptist. If there is any true religion among them, it
will be so - Union in a course of apostasy is shocking - Baptist that would
not have a hand in supporting antichrist must reap to their old principles.
If the distinction between the true church of Christ ~~in this land~~ and
the civil state is lost, or confounded, the profession of religion degenerates into
a system of worldly policy, and down right superstition - Whatever may be
pretence: flattery, deceit, infidelity and atheism, are the ruling principles
in such a system. The incorporating scheme does in effect blend church and
state together. It is therefore pleasing to the enemies of religion and of the
baptist: it greatly dishonors, and tends to ruin, the baptist denomination -
I hope for, you will oppose this beast, now among baptist; set up a standard
against him, and dare be honest and faithful in these dismal times - Surely
you will not suffer plausible pretences to cover the naturness of the man of
sin, because he is grown old and ready to die; nor allow that baptist are able to
convert this monster. I trust you will not take it amiss, that I write to you on
this subject - I write to refresh your memory, if necessary - You understand the
matter - You see the consequences of either favouring, or opposing the scheme.
May your determination and conduct evidence consistency, and be a happy means
of great good to Israel. May you yet contend for the faith once delivered to the
Saints. Stand fast in the liberty of the gospel, and finish your course with joy -
From your friend, and I hope brother, in the best of bonds

Edw. Clarke

Edw. Clarke
Recd. Sept. 15.
Aug. 18. 1798.

Answered Sept. 14. 1799.

Harwich February 19 1770

Dear Brother having this opportunity to write a few lines
I thought I would write a few lines
to let you know something of our affairs & family
I am in the first place I would acquaint you of the
circumstances of my self & family as to my self I am a
single man but very much engaged in matters of true
religion Dear Brother pray for me that I may be
working as to my family my wife & children are all
well but through the illness of one of our children
I have had some grief but I hope upon the
return of our children that I shall have a few days of
rest I am out of spirits but I hope to be well soon
I am in a good way of getting well & that God will
send me to you in the next week I hope to be
able to communicate something to you in these lines of the work &
of God in this part of the land in a short time
I have been labouring in this part of the land
and it seems to me that his labour is a great measure
and that there is a great many truly converted
souls and several more under powerful work of God
I have been labouring to bring many families as
they tell me have embraced the Gospel way to life by Jesus
Christ & many more in that neighbourhood under
conviction of mind: and in our Society it is to be
seen that there are five or six that is truly born of the water & the Spirit of
God namely John Chase & Berrey Chase sons to Elder Chase &
and one if not North of there wives & and one of Brother Smiths
daughters if not 2 of them brought into clear light I have
heard several of them speak much of God, work and power upon
their hearts and the discovery of sin the Justice of God and in what
way they were brought to receive a Remedy and Cure for
their wounded souls: what is too great for a God to do: there
is a number more of our Society under powerful conviction: I may
be granted that conviction may work to conversion: it seems no
more in this part of the town: But it seems an uncommon time among
the people to meet together to hear upon these Cape shores & doors
as have lately open for the Gospel in Eastham namely Stephen Trion
and Samuel Batteys: Dear Brother may these things draw you that
heart & mind to come & visit us and hear and see for your self may
I do order it in providence is the prayer of his unworthy servant
Leth Clark

Remember me to your wife and Dear family & flock
My wife desires to be Remembered to you all: pray write to her
at the first opportunity if so be you can't come to labour in this part
of God's vineyard

very: I have had private conversation with some

Barnstable 1779

Barnstable
Dear Brother after I concluded this and thought to write no
more at this time I was to Elder Chasos and he gave me
an Count of 3 parsons more that was hopefullly Brought into
free Gospel Liberty namely Diamond Chase son to William Chase
and Ruben Wickson: son in law to William Chase and his
son Jobe Chase seems to be under powerful Conviction
and Brother Smiths Daughten that I have mentioned before
in this: which I could not write to fully upon before: Elder Chase
told me he has conversed with her and has a clear Satisfaction
of her future happaness glory Be God that he has given these
2 mails to adore God for free grace in Christ Jesus who before
was of the Denomination of friends or quakers: I am at this
time at Brother Blossoms and I have seen something of the
power of Gods Spirit since I have been here Mr Creswell is
here too and preached here last evening to a number of bles
and purposes to preach here this afternoon & this evening & may
God Bless him abundantly with the power of his Spirit
and give him to see the fruit of his labour in this place to his
expecting joye: wee purpose by Gods love of providence to be
at oyster Island to morrow: Dear Brother it seems as though
you cant help traveling this way soon: I Believe Lord help my
unbelofe Dear Brother Com Com Com and Labour with
us a fortnite of 3 weeks which may God Grant for his name
Lake

Aug 15. 1495. Edward Parke

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liberty: Have had ^{the 17th Nov} private conversation with ^{Gov} one and a half

To These
Mr Isaac Backus
Pastor of a Church
of Christ
att.
Middelborough
I C W

From Mr Clark
of Harwich Feb. 19.
1770 Recd. May 7.
8. 13.
A glorious receipt.

Isaac Clark,
Letter Feb. 19. 1770.

A glorious receipt

Harwich June 21. 1774

Brother having this opportunity to write a few lines to you
 cordially Embrass it and after my kind respects to you your Dear
 sort & family & the Dear flock over which God has maid you an
 or fear: I shall Give you som Clear & short a Count of our
 Affairs in this part: all Christian frinds are in a measur of
 bodily helth excepting one of Brother Smiths Daughters who
 is layn for som time under a strong feaver But is in a hopfull
 way to git up again: in this time of her sickness Repetely
 exprest her longing Desiar to be Baptised and lamented her mis
 improving time and opportunity when she had it: the Difficulty
 between Elder Chase and Brother Smith is heal'd & there sely united
 in the fellowship of the gospel mee trust: there has Ben several
 persons Baptised sence you was with us and aded to y^e Church: one
 man in this part of the town a bout 1 mill from my house it is to
 be hoppt and I think may be trusted upon has met with a saving
 lang of solc Blessed Be god that he sees good to Give Down his
 oly Spirret to enliten the understanding of his Dear Children
 & to Give them Clearness & willingness to obey him in his Comman
 The Lord is still Carrying on the work of Conviction: several
 persons among us and as I heare at heyannas likewise are under
 powerfull awaknen: o may god Grant it to work to a true
 moorision of solc: the Difficulty still Remains Between Brother
 wel and the Church: I Rejoyce at the News I find set forth in
 the letter you wrote to Elder Chase Concerning the ten persons
 which you therein set forth that were hopfully Born again o
 may god Grant them Renewed strength from Day to Day: Dear Brother
 am verrey sorrey that I have ocation to write to you what
 in a Bout to write: But lest you shoud be impos'd upon I look
 upon it my Duty to let you somthing of Mr Croswells Condoct
 who has Ben in this part sence you was with us: he has Ben sufferd
 & seems: as an instrument of Causing a Grate Deal of Difficulty
 uneasness in the minds of the Dear Saints of god: what will be
 the Land thereof god only knows o that god wold prevent all the
 evil events that may com among us in that way: the Declaration
 which he has Repetely Before numbers of people Borth in publick
 Assemblies and in privet Conversation that he wold pray to god to Blas
 tate Spirret of Close Communion Somtimes to others that god wold
 layt the Bapts Spirrit and so went on tell the soors that was
 heretofore open for him: maney or the most of them wear shut
 a gainst him: and when he was traveling homeward he called to
 Elder Chases Door he Being not at home he told Sister Chays his arrend
 Down this time way to brak the neck of Spurrer of prindable: o that
 god wold Give him to see what he is a Versing and what he is a Bout
 it is true after he got to Brother Blossoms where he sposed to stop
 acting and found there Door shut and so at heyannas & oyster Island
 among us: he tarred there all night and in the morning he acknowledg
 there Satisfaction and an acknowledment back to us it has Ben Red and
 he it lays so I sent no the Brethrens minds upon it But it seems that
 that he has therein acknowledg it is only the hot Spirrit he was in when
 I spok this things: it seems he sent mean to acknowledg that he was Rep

revery: I have had the privet Conversation with one
 may to Give verrey clear

in praying to god to plact it: so it seem that Brother & Sister ~~do not recd into our minding of acknowledgement~~ either they or I am mistaken in that But for your father information in this matter Enquirer of the Barren here of who has seen it & he can in some measur inform you of what is therein enclosed: and as Brother nicksen and som of his people uses the sam Expressions nay som of them as I have ben informed that spirit of close communion is from the Bottomles pit & that we are led by the Spirit of the Devil tho I dont no that I have ben informed that Brother nicksen has used these last expressions himself But yet he dont Reprove them for it as I can here: I have had 2 oppertunity to Discors with him latty a bout it and find him to stand in the self same thing if I can Rightly understand him and I think that I do: Dear Brother I can truly say that I dont write these things ^{from} out of any prejudice of hart or out of any ill will to either of them But ^{with} sorrow and aching of hart that these things are so hapned But my prayers to god is who alone is the searcher of hart & the treyer of Rains wold search out this mesterly of Enquity and Bring to light and Play it by the Brightness of his appearing: Dear Brother I take it verrey kindly of you that you show so much Regard for us as to write to us and to Recommend they Brother phelapha singly whome you cold freely Receive to Improve in publick with you: whom we Received freely after Reading your letter sent to Elder Chase: may god Give him good Speed and Bless his labours in the Gospell of Christ while with us and when from us: I hope you will still take the same Care for us when you see or no that any is traveling this way who are Strangers to us that we might not be imposed upon by any that you may suspect we may be: these from your friend and Brother I trust in Christ
 my wife & siars to be Sutablely Remembered
 to you to your wife & family

Seth Clark

The names of those that have ben Baptised since you was with us
 Christian nicksen:

Elsabath farres
 Christian Rider
 patience Gallops
 gerusha Eldredg
 thankfull nicksen

Aprill 29: 1770

pheneas nicksen
 Ruben Eldredg Juner
 Ebenezer Eldredg about
 12 years of age

Charvity nicksen Dafter to pheneas nicksen about
 thankfull Eldredg Dafter to willim Eldredg 9 years of age
 Juner about 8 years of age - may 6: 1770

the wido Lydia Annes may 4 13: 1770

Smally phillips

Anner nicksen may 27: 1770

marcy Lovel wife to Shuble Lovel June 10: 1770

Harwich June 21. 1774

Since I began to write these few lines
who I herein mentioned that was sick and in some measure better
has departed this life and it is to be hoped is gone to enjoy a better
and as Mr. Chase tells me another of his Daughters is Brought into
Clear light and comfort of soul

liberty: I have had private Conversation with her
and she has given me a very clear Scriptural account of her Conversion

Jersey Baptist.

1770.

Letter June 20

Seth Clark

Q En S

Middleborough

Att.

of Court

Paster of a Church

Mr. Isaac Backus

To

These

From Mr. Seth Clark
of Hancock

Recd. June 20. 1770

S. B.

Dear Brother

Harwich June 21. 1774

These lines are just to let you know a little
of our affair: Sister Susanna Lovells Difficulty
we have laboured upon: the first Thursday in this
month we had a conference meeting and the Chh.
in Barnstable sent messengers impowered to
act with us and when we had labored consider-
ably we seemed to unite and they dismissed her
to us openly & we openly拒 her. But since
Elder Chase has been to Barnstable and those
messengers refuse to make any return to the
Chh. and they all seem to say No regard to
what is done. it is very trying. But we
think our way is clear to go on with her
as a member with us notwithstanding.

Dear Brother I expect to meet with trials
& Tribulation while here. but however I don't
expect it will be long I remain in a poor
state of Body but my mind is unshaken

Elder Hunt has been here and been down
to Truro and in 8 Days Preached 14 sermons
with as much Zeal and strength as ever I have
heard him and People seemed much affected a new
door is open at Wifflet near Brother Coles

in all the earth and his

where ^{Let} of our Baptists have ever been
before and they are swift to hear & may God
have all the glory I hope he is about to revive
his work in these parts - Be so good as to
send to me by the first opportunity and let
me know of your affairs - and Pray for us
So I Rest your Brother in our Lord -
Seth Clark

P.S.

as to ourselves in the Ch. we are at Peace
among ourselves and I must Just inform you
that Brother Freemans eldest daughter we have
Reason to believe has met with a Saving Change
Last Monday was week

in in all the earth and his saving health a mourning all in
my self I have no cause to lament of the ^{ed} ^{ness} of ^{ed}

Seth Clark Cetta
June 21. 1994.

To

Mr. Isaac Backus
in Middleborough

at Sur after my Best Regards to you and to your's hoping
 e may find you all in good health as they leave us at this
 1: Blessed be God for his preserving goodness: having this
 ertunity to write a few lines to you I kindly Embrace it and
 t you know something of our present Circumstances it seems
 e a long time in general as to matters of Religion for which wee
 rn: o that God wold Return and have mercy on us and Bless
 nd Cause his face to shine upon us and that his name may be
 in in all the earth and his saving health a mounge all nations
 my self I have no Cause to Complain of the goodness of God to
 but have Great Cause of thankfulness that God of his infinite
 ous: is Granting to me many Refreshing and Comfortable seasons
 of Spiritual presence and Sweet Communion with him in the
 uses of the Gospell of Jesus Christ which he has promised to all
 love and fear him: o that I may ever mourn my miss
 t life wherein I have Sinned and all my miss Conduct Before
 and that for the future I may be enabled through the grace
 od to Depart from all Enmity and shun all appearance of
 t: and that Gods Cause and undefiled Religion may ever lay at
 t: I Received your letter of Septem^r 22 with thankfulness and
 re to heare that you had agreeable meeting in your assembly
 he last Association: and for the glad tidenges that I hear from
 tant part: that God has Ben Carrying on his great Design
 e Conversion of a number of souls at peperell: o that his Begun
 es may spread wide and far untill the true knowledge of God
 the earth as the waters Dew the Deep: through the goodness
 and mercifull & gracious God I have one instance to inform
 which is matter of Joy and great Comfort to me: and no
 will be Rejoyssing to all: who Bear the morrell image of our
 evy Christ: and have a longing Desier of hart for the: ~~ever~~
 lering: in of Soly into the Covenant of his Grace: which is
 the Displays of Gods power & Grace: which I hope he has maid
 est to my Granddaughter Reliance: Gage: who is about 15
 who has Ben under Great Consarn of mind for som time
 I late it seems that she is Brought by the grace of God into
 liberty: I have had privet Conversation with ^{her} once and a gain
 mes to Give verey Clear Scriptural account of her Conversion
 the work of Gods Spirit with her: to Convince her: of the
 e Condition she was ⁱⁿ out of Christ &c.

I was a saying it day or ten ^{ten} ago, that if she found a Dayley
Satisfaction that she had met with a saving Clang of Soul: that
I ~~propose~~ ^{propose} to write a few lines to you: and I wold make mention
of it: she verrey freely maid answer and says I am verrey willing
you should: Glory be to God: I have a present Satisfaction of the
happy State that God has seen good to bring her into: o that this
may be the happy Case of all my Dear offsprings: may God Grant
it for his name sake: o how great ~~are~~ ^{the} and manyfould are the
merceys and Blessings of God towards me North as to a Spirittuel and
temporel natur: my Son & Granson Isaac Gage God has seen good to
preserve while in Captivity and else where and Returnd them
them again in Safty: my Granson Thomas Gage is now if living out
a privetering my Granson Isaac Clark is now Bound a vidge to the
west Indies my Granson Ariel King is not Returnd home as yet
he has Ben ⁱⁿ a Bout 4 year we have heard from him some time ago: that he
was a live and well Baxter Downes that married Judah Gage is not
Returnd he has Ben gon about a year or more: I must leave them all
in the hands ^{of} whose they are and who will dew nothing But what is
Right with them: Dear Sir you did not write aney thing to me
Concerning your coming to visit us: But I hope you will when a
Door in Gods providence is open for it: I wold beg the favor of you
to favor me with a few lines by all oppertunities: all friends are
in a measur of health excepting old Sister Gage it seems by outwaies
appearence she is near Departing this life & my wife desires to
be Remembred to you to your wife and all Enquiring friends
to Conclude I Rest yours in Gosple Bonds Jeth Clark

P.S. I should be glad if you wold favor us in giting us more
Suplies Round about you this year if you can.

~~October 3 1778~~
Harnwich october 3: 1778

Jeth Clark
Oct. 3. 1778.

27
Harroeth September 1: 1781

Sur having this opportunity to write a few lines to
Kinoley Embrace it: after my affectionate Respects
and yours these may Inform you that wee are in a
our of health at present & are in comfortable & constant
as to our inter enjoyment of God in & glory after this
ly hevy of our tabernacal is desolved and we so
& be kept no more: glory be to God for his Blessings
ours towards us in these Respects: it has been good
God who has a sovereing Right to give what it
ieth him God with his own to take from us our
nson tully By Death he Gived in the presonskip at
h and my Brothers Son Thomas & 2 more of our near
kbour: may God Sanctifie these Dispensations
is Dealings towards us for our spiritual Good
Jeffer's has Ben with us 2 Sabaths sence he cam
you: & his Improvements is to satesfaction: at
ent & according to our understanding he be every
Clear Doctrins of the Gosple: & sound in
icable: he is now present with us & his wife o
the Lord wold Enable us to Improve present
ertunities to the Best advantage: at present wee
a comfortable prospect of his Being with us if
can Comfortably support him: when I should that
orage us when the whole earth is the Lords & the
ess thereof & the chattels upon a thousand hills
his: wee purpose By the love of providance to
move him & his wife Down: a moving us upon treyal
after he Coms from the association: Remember
your Dear Consort & family & all Inquireng
s: to Conclude wee Rest yours in Gosple
hony - - : Seth & Hulda Clark

Sett Clark
Lett. Sept. 1. 1781.

Rec. Sept. 11.
J. D.

Dear

Franc. Pickens

Nov. 1. 1781.

Middleborough

For having this opportunity to write a few lines
I freely embrace it these may inform you that
through the Goodness of God we are all in a measure of
the: as to the matters of Religion it seems to be at
present a very low time with us Elder Hunt has
been labouring in the Gospel with great Clearness of
mind: and to good Satisfaction: and Edification of the
Christians among us: may God Reward him: abundantly
for his labours of love: and Bless him with all
irrital Blessings: we Received the same like
comfort & Edification & Refreshing of Soul through the
visiting of heaven when Elder Nelson & Elder Leamans
were with us: we have moved Mr Jeffers down
among us for travel at present there is good
satisfaction given among the Brethren both as
to doctrine principle & Conduct: so that God would
bless him abundantly among us: all friends
are in comfortable circumstances pray send me
few lines by all opportunities Remember us
your Dear Consort & family and all Enquiring
friends Being in haste: to Conclude we Rest
our most affectionate friend in the Gospel

Jeth^r Hudson Clark

Elder Hunt can give you a more particular
account how matters are among us

these

to

Elder Isaac Backus

att

Wm Delbarron

Elder Hunt who
bro't it west to
Harrisburgh, Nov. 14.
Harrisburgh, Dec. 22.

2. 13.

Rec. Jan. 1. 1781

like comes with my ~~and~~ respect to you & your dear
sort & family hoping they may find you in comfortable
recomstances as through the Goodness of God they have
Blessed be God for it: these may Inform you that I have
ipaly through the Blessings of heaven Experienced many
comfortable & Refreshing Seasons of mind from the presents
the Lord and the glory of his power: glory be to God
his good will: ~~for~~ such undeserved favours: Mr Jeffers
still with us and is verely well approved of among
Blessed be ^{that} he has heartily opened the way in his kind
ovidence for his comfortable support the good God is better
us in that Respect then our fears was: our Society
creyes: & ~~we~~ we are at peace among our selves and
itedly agreed as to Religious matters as to the Doctrines
the Gospel & princables Mr Jeffers seems ^{to} gain the
attention of the people to come to here the word of the
d from his mouth: though at present there dont seem
be a visable appearence: of a thorrow work of Conviction
Conversions among us: But yet I trust God is on his
way and will work in his own way & in his own time
they beleve that God is about to Carrey on his greasious
work among us in this port But the time when he
make it manifest God only knows his time is the best
e: there is a Great ~~separation~~ & a drawing off of admonitory
ong nickason people: and I depend there will be a
star Deslike and falling away among that people still
that it will appear more & more to there Satisfaction
it he is in Docten & princable: Being in hast I Conclude
to my hearty love to you: pray write to me by all opportunity
n: Decr 20th 1782 departed this life last week
Seth Clark

Dear Sir having this opportunity to write a few lines to you I
make use of it: these may Inform you that we are all
measur of health Blessed be God for his temporal
blessings to usward: as to matters of Religion it seems to be
low time with us at present: But our hope and
expectation is in God: that he will yet shower down a
itesfull Shower of his holy Spirit a moving us to the
Conversion of many souls & for the upbuilding and establishing
our people in there most holy faith: Blessed be God
we are at peace among our selves at present though
attil adversarey of souls who is dayley striving to disturb
us as of Gods people goes about valy as a Roaring lion
whom he may devour: But God Raineth & will
as lord and King untill he shall subdew all his
enies under him: glory be to God he Ruleth he
erneth all things according to his good pleasur
at wicked men & Devils Rage
Jeffers is with us & his Improvements at present
s to be to good Satisfaction in general our Sociati
but small at present though it seems Rather to
rese then decrease: the Difficultys that wear
ween Nickason & his people & us still are the same
y excuse my shortness & weakness in writing
Dear Sir pray for us that God wold lead good and
ect us in the paths of Relousness: Remember us
our dear Consort & family & all Inquiring friends
conclude I Rest your nere friend Seth Clark
Harwich January 3: 1782
pray write a few lines to me as opportunity
may allow

Seth Clark's letter.

Jan. 3. 1782.

Rev. Stebbins

1. 23.

these

To

Rev Isaac Backus

att

Windsorborough

1/2

Jeth Clark's Vellm.
Apr. 18. 1783.

Recd. Aug. 2.
A. 73.

To

Mr Isaac Brock
Minister of the Gospel

Middleboro

23 May 1795

and Recd Br

I will brace this Opportunity the more
cheerfully Not knowing but it may be the last that ever will drop
from my trembling hand, having been Under Affliction off and on
ever since August last, and Now just able to get out of bed to let
you know that the great Mortality among us spreads any thing
that can be remembered by the Church that is living, Out of our
Church has gone home in little more than One Year 13 members
most of them remarkable for their piety, and Round about
numbers of our Baptist Brethren are gone home among
whome is Old Brother, Matthew Woodson, Brother John
Williams a few day ago, Numbers are under affliction
and some are going to Heaven Key, Religion is at the lowest
ebb that ever it has been Among us since my Remembrance and
the trials and Difficultys in the Churches Greater than ever has
been among us, the Lord is sifting the wheat from the chaff, surely
some things have turned up in my family of which I cannot write
which has filld my heart with Sorrow and grief and looks like it
would go with me to the grave which I think cannot be far off,
God grant that I may be Ready to hear the plaudet well done, good
and faith full servant enter in to the joys of thy Lord, the little thing
of this life still plague me all tho the Lord has been loosing of
them from me for some time as I have thought to let me go to
a nother and I hope a better world, wherein I dwellth Rich
trousness. my family is Afflicted with me - O may these kind
kind Yours and Yours in peace with god and helth of Body the
best Blessing in this life. - Your favour in the pamphlets came
to hand at last, but I fear I cannot do any thing with them with
out the Lord would revive Religion should I live which I do not
much Expect to see, am I Dear Br Yours in Christ Jesus Clear

Elcaran Clay
May 23. 1795.
Recd. Aug. 18.
J. B.

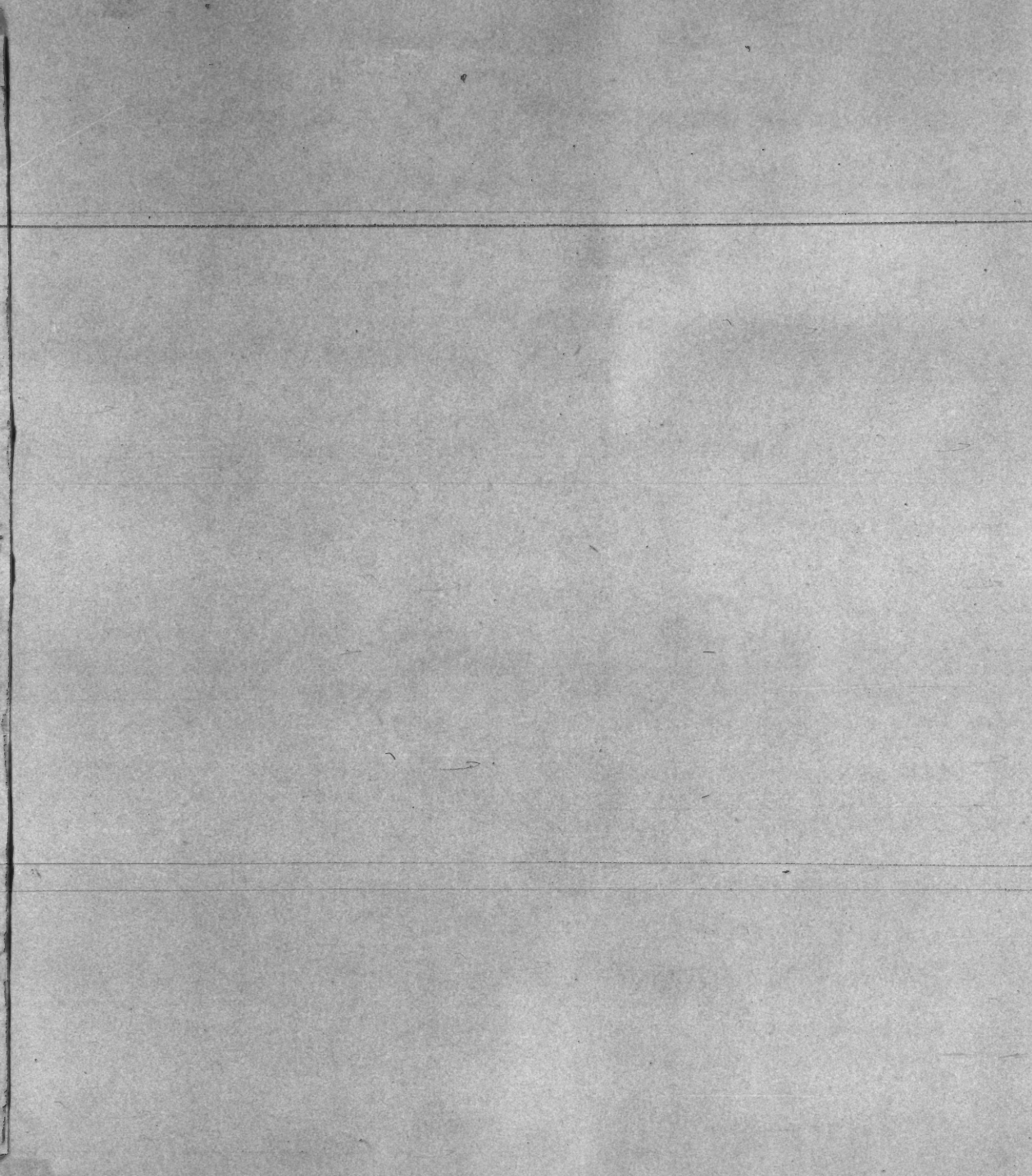
I know, that I yett remain in a poore state as your fire heart seen me god only knowes what I shall be any better While I live it seems my mind being troubled by things which I cant be freed from hinders my body growing strongerz my mine being weake not having that satisfaction which it wants and desiring to have even true pece with god through his priue love so as to be prepared for death which peace I would dethe true pece by christ I pray god to grant to give me before and not let me rest nor give over seeking to him yett he ~~will~~ ^{will} give me a new view of christ and his spirit in him I hope you had som Refreshment from god by giving my love to Mr Barker

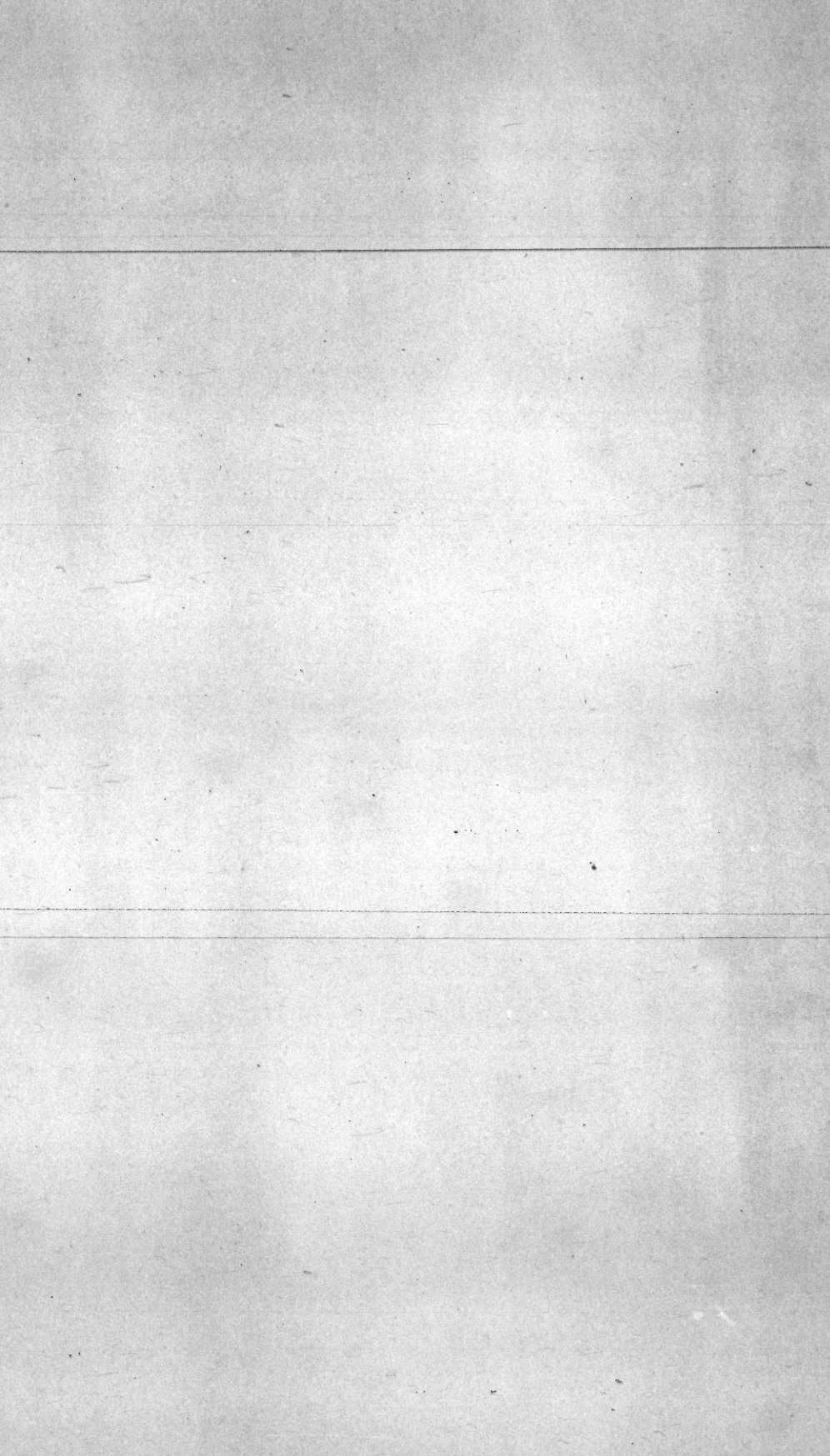
no more / I remain your pour friend

John Cole Junr

John Cole, Jr.
Letter May 29
1767.

From
John Cole, Jr.
May 29. 1767.
Recd. May 31.
J. Wadsworth.





my poor ability & weak

my many

August 21. 1767 And now for, these lines may let
 now that yet I am alive, sometimes a little more ^{weakly} strength
 when my mind is so unsatisfied ^{for} want of faith in
 power to go to Christ, I come to w^{or}nto surence thro
 blissing grace but for what can I do when my spirit
 would be forgerking my flesh is ^{perhaps} backward ~~weak~~
 Also my heart is not earnest in faith as it ought to be
 and when I begin to be fervent my flesh is loth to
 worrid the sometimes I hop I donte yettolt, Sir you kind
 at flesh & spirit are I have lived a long time w^{or}nting
 know the things of god & Christ I have by
 must be saved if it may be a thing exceptable to god & for
 thinke neede Gods Children to joine with me & I god
 whole give them freedom to aske of god for Christ like
 the thing that my love & body neede I would desier it
 them to keep sometime if they are willing in prayer
 together on my occourte desiering god to give w^{or}nto
 m ahand to seek him in faith now will
 e it with ~~to do as~~ to seek him in faith now will
 Backus desiering him to remember
 and do as best for his & poore unw^{or}thy
 friend John ~~for~~ Cole Jones

Mr Backus whose I weak
 maybe avenge it here
 in my letter
 I would gladly write better
 matter & manner.

according to his holy word,
 thorough faith in Christ his son.

if gods people shold ask what's my desire in their
in their prayers, It is that god would be pleased
to worke in me according to his Word Regeneration
by a right saving faith in Jesus Christ.
& if tis god pleasure some bodily strength
to serve him with glory in him while I live submitting
above all to be ~~to be~~ and fit to dye
willing

John Cole, Jun.
Letter Aug. 23
1764

To
Mr Isaac Backus
in Middleborough

From Plymton

Recd. Aug. 23. 1764.
J. B.

Decr 1777, Dear Brother

Kent. Plymouth July 1778

By my poor ability I will right something of my
to you
past circumstances Dear Father of god you have
me him I hope by His grace and providence
my mean poor worm acknowledge how he has
carried in his love and (ear thro every lace
ch I beg for his grece to inable ~~to help~~ me
to do it. at present I am as full as
have bin But it is of the Lords mercy I
have any strength I think my triarls are self
spirit sin and satan with a every day But
ont tel you all and god only nose my core
Beg your prays for me for god to deliever
me your poor friend
John Cole

John Cole jun
letter Aug. 17
1777

To Mr

Isaac Backus
in Middleburgh
with care

Recd. Aug. 20.
J. B.

Dear Brother, these lines
 from your unworthy Brother may inform
 I am still labouring under my many
 sickness afflictions temptations trielly
 which you have done something and my
 mind and Request when you see me
 O Dear Brother can you have one
 member of your Body I am and weak
 and distressed and do all you can to help and
 al it and do the same to help one
 at your spiritual member if you
 look upon me so I humbly beseech you
 with the best of the dear Brethren
 Jesus christ to take upon you one
 mete in a solemn way of prayer
 and fasting imploring our father
 heaven to be pleased to help all my needs
 Body and mind in his one way to bring
 e out of my distress than will I praise
 m for his goodness and for his wonder
 works with you all John Cole
 our frail Brother amen

in spand a
 the accompe
 nes men do
 pray for
 you can
 by under
 maybe
 the

pton may 14 1718

er facus der fir these lines are to inform you
 I John Cole am so fered with illness that I cant
 spect that I shall live but a littel while except
 thing helps me more then it dose the doctor conclude
 I shall never recover and nothing helps my dissaister
 at my food vorishes me none and I can keep nothing
 of any substance and I am very low and I think
 defelution is very near and I shall be glad that
 you once more in this world and do humbly desier
 to come down this after Noon if nothing from
 shall hinder by all means I humbly desier the
 irs of all ~~the~~ ^{my} Brethren in the church that goe
 thro infinite love file me for and be with me
 all in this life and thro death from your Brother
 John Cole

if you could please you to meet at our
house but later you will or think best with
one heart by my desire
I thought when I wrote the preceding letter
was going to my home and my duty
Respectfully to my father's confidence
perhaps you may both be well
to meet if so you can I shall be glad
on the account of my to estate and
great trust

Fear Sir our trierls in this
world are great if god dont
continually support our hearts
will faint on us and our souls
will be lost

Lympington July 29 1788

Dear Sir, through gods great goodness I am spared a
life and upheld in my weak condition the accompe
to many foulde temptation and trials I remember
love to you and your wife and all folks pray for
pleased to hear down and be me as I am if you can
remember my love much in this Lady under
and for some condition I desire that it may be
replied to him for his spiritual good John
remain your friend

I have sent you to meet at our
 1st. I hope you will or think best with
 Mr. Elmer.

To Elmer. 200
 of my private
 1756

Followed of stage at 2 1/2. 2 1/2
 of John Brown of
 To your friend. To 3 weeks and half of 5440. 10.6

By fresh coal
 John
 1780. 8.
 1780. 8.
 8.6.0
 8.6.0

2-3-6

John C. ...
Letter. 1748

Recd Oct 9

g. n.

To Mr. J. ...
Backus.

Dorchester May the 18th 1789

As Balus would inform you that a letter
and he informed me that he saw you and
that you had a desire that I would visit you
and have these fore thought fit to in form to
that I propose if God will to be with you
at Soboth Cornwicks which will be
about this month. Thes from your friend
Jameson Corns

Honored Sir I take this opportunity to write
a few lines to let you know of the wonderful
work of God in this place of late. A goodly number
received the ordinance of Baptism in ^{Wrentham} Wrentham as
twinsly a goodly number more under a severe
thought of mine. I earnestly beg you
would come and pray us a visit if the Lord
will ~~as time permits~~. I have the happiness
to let you know of the wonderful work of God in
my poor family. I must write but short having
not time this from your most unworthy friend
Abel Corbin

on the paper are singing they hold meetings
every week by day & by nite we beg your
prayers for us that the work of God might spread
far and wide we have a man that preaches
with us at present & he is much engaged at
present. I hope that God will strengthen him
ever more to sound the trumpet of the Gospel
and likewise be faithful with those that are in ^{our} the way to salvation

Woodstock March the 10 1792

Dr. Mrs.
Jus. M. Backus
Middleborough

(Contd, Letter
May 16. 1789.

Mr. Isaac Backus
at
Middleborough

Had (C. G. M.)
Nov. 19. 1792.
No. 25.
8. 17.

Dear Brother Bacus by the Opportunity of
Brother Brim I have thought it Duty to write
a few Lines to you as a Father in the Gospel — Dear
whom I have seen and should gladly see again —
was it the Pleasure of God it should be so —
The Brethren in this Town remember you long
we have Nothing Strange to relate only that if
Religion by Numbers is attempted to to be turn
into Deism brother Harris ~~was~~ was at my
house a few Days ago is uncommonly healthy
& what he has been for years he is the oldest
Preacher in Virginia, And Now often Preaches
Twice a day & travels for a month together
Lunsford is dead Williams has followed Zion
mourn of Numbers Lament the Loss Dear
Brother write me how it is with you in your
Parts & with your Self & family My Self
& wife joins in love to you & yours. Write
by Brother Brim

John Courtney May 26. 1795

May 26. 1795.
John Courtney
Recd. Aug. 18.
1793.

Old B

Isaack Backus
State Massachusetts
Middle Burner

Dear Brother Backus Once more I write you not
doubting but that if you should receive this I
say Dear Brother Brame ~~who~~ who brings ~~it~~ it
will receive an answer which may be comfortable Dear
Brother how do you do I was truly glad when I received
your letter it reminded of those Sermons you
preach'd when amongst us may the Lord ^{make} you strong
in his mite tho all the Powers of Nature fail
we have Nothing Very Pleasing in this State
as to religion ~~it~~ it appears to be at a low ebb
god has lately Comforted us in Richmond with
an Addition of Seventeen members which I baptis'd
last Sabbath our Congregations are Numerous
& Behave well, our associations appear to possess
a great deal of harmony & Love, the Lord
has taken from us Brother Magers Mercer &
minee, you wrote ^{me} About Books sent to Brother
Williams I have written several times to different
Persons but could get no information should I hear
I will write Remember us in your Prayers
No more But my Ardent Love

John Courtney
Mar. 18 — 1797

Richmond April the 15. 1799

Dear Brother I have thought proper to Address
a few Lines to you by way of remembrance
hoping they may find you & yours well, I should
be glad to hear from you tho had rather see you
tho it be so but I hardly expect it till we
meet where Parting is no more we have accorded
me at present with us in those Parts, the
people seem swallowed in Politics so that
little else is talkt of, yesterday I Baptiz'd
seven persons & had a comfortable meeting
& it is not common, Our Last Assembly
has granted our memorial by repealing all
laws respecting the Old Church property &
has left ^{it} to the next assembly
to do with it I cant say but suppose it will
be sold for the Use of Each Parish Dear Brother
write me how it is with you what is the state
of the Lord's Zion, there has been sum refreshment
in Different Parts in one Church above
a hundred members added in a few mon this
may god it may reach us & not us only but taken
over the earth, I conclude by observing that
Brother Read has left us & gone to a world
of spirits may we be ready when our time shall
come
The Prayer of your Brother in gospel Bond
John Courtney

John Courtney

April 15. 1799.

Recd. July 3.

J. C.

Answered July 5. 1799.

my dear friend and father in Christ

Dear Bro.

Richmond March 20th 1791

It may seem a little strange to receive a line from
one who have had so little acquaintance with you & at so
a distance from you But I once had the pleasure of seeing
and hearing Bro. Backus, ^{in Richm} the satisfaction I then Recd. induced
to inform you that you are yet on my mind and being fully
satisfied that frequent communications among Brethren are
very great blessing I make use of this opportunity by the way
Bro. Bream a worthy member in the Baptist society whom
I sincerely love & think ought to be encouraged, to drop a few
lines just to introduce a Correspondance, I have nothing worth
writing Respecting the prosperity of the Redeemers Kingdom
our Quaker, only there seems to be a little more among
the poor Brethren in this place. Last Sabbath was a week
there was about 18 or 19 Baptized at this place, we have Revon
lament our coldness yet I trust we have as much Religion
as to want more, may the Lord grant it love for Christ
ake, therefore Conclude Dear Bro. Yours in Gospel Bonds

Thos. Courtney

Sho. Courtney
Nov. 20. 1497.
Rec. June 28.
9. 13

US v. Sho. Courtney
before J. rec. This.

Rec. Isaac Baethun
Hapachuetto
17. 13

So December the 25 1799

my dear friend and father in Christ
 honoured Sir I now embrace this
 opportunity to inform you that I am well
 thro the mercy of God and do hope
 in his mercy and goodness that these lines
 will find you and all yours in good
 health likewise all ^{my} brotherin and friends
 I greatly desire to see you and all my
 friends but thro poverty I am not abel
 to come and see you I find many wants
 in this part of the world but above all
 the want of the true gospel of Jesus ^{and}
 Christ is the greatest we have many preache
 but few teachers that appear to be faithful
 in the cause of Christ. there appears
 to be a moving of Gods Spirit in this place
 and there is a few that give good grounds
 of their hope. but are so imposed
 upon by free will preachers that they
 seem to be at a loss in there own
 minds and are wavering and truly
 I find that I almost stagger my self
 tho at times I have been more establis^{ht}
 from time to time. and God has been
 pleased to lead me by the Spirit of his
 truth and has not suffered me to be
 by free will either overcome or slain
 but I want daily watching over me
 I desire and beg the prayers of all the
 servants of God with the prayers
 of Gods children for me and for this
 part of Gods heritage that we may be

I have been thinking of you very much lately
 and wondering how you are getting on.
 I hope you are well and happy.
 I have been very busy lately
 but I have managed to find some time
 to write you a few lines.
 I am sure you will be glad to hear from me.
 I have been thinking of you very much lately
 and wondering how you are getting on.
 I hope you are well and happy.
 I have been very busy lately
 but I have managed to find some time
 to write you a few lines.
 I am sure you will be glad to hear from me.

50
cept from the power of sin and Satan
by the power of Christs resurrection thro
faith in his name
and now I must conclud with renewed
desires of brotherly love hoping that if we
should never meet in this world again
that we shall meet in Christs kingdom to
give thanks and bless and praise his
great and holy name
pray Sir send me a letter the first
opportunity and so no more at present
from me but I remain your obedient
friend and faithful well wisher
till death
Anna Crane

pray Sir remember me to all inquiring
friends but especily to all my brethren
and sisters and I should take it a great
favor from any of them that can find
a freedom to write to me for I have a desire
of fellowship with my ^{the} very
distant from them but my heart is still
with them as before
Anna Crane

To the Revd

James Joseph
in middlebury

Anne Kane, Dec. 25. 1799.
Answered Aug. 13. 1801.

Recd Jan. 17. 1800.
J.B.

Nijmegen Oct^r 25th year 1760

Dear & Good I Take this opportunity
Right to you hoping these few
lines will find you and your
family in Good health

I have been much not well for
some time But Throu the Divine Goodness
God of something Better then I have

in for some time past I Desire your
prayer for me to God that he will keep
me from sinning against him for I

find that in me dwells no good thing
But I am proud to that with God
that God will in his own due

time Return me home temperately
and strong

I would inform you that I have not
yet been home but cannot without
Deserting as many have done before

out of duty to leave from home
for I have not had a Letter from home
since last August from any of my friends

but I hope it is altogether through
the Letters miscarriage But I would
humbly Beg of you as you are paying

and Repaying of my than my
dear friends are and have more
opportunities to write to me then they

take pains to send me a Letter
some as you can how the going stands
with my family for I long to hear

from them and much more to be them

It is a very stirring time with us
I don't not but what you have heard
that the Garrison school at Louisbourg
and ~~one~~ it can to be destroyed and
I blame it is half a completion
I give you with remembrance to my wife
and ~~find~~ and give my regards to
Mrs. Backhouse and your children
and to all enquiring after me
I ad none at present but remove
your duty all from theophilus Crocker
of me in Capt. Stephen Whipple's
Company under the command of
Colonel Bagley

Theo. Crocker
Letter Aug. 25. 1760

J. B. B. B.

Aug. 25. 1760
Recd. 25. 1760

From Crocker

~~At the same time~~ ^{at the same time} all the way a hundred miles distant
I was the place the spot of land where Jesus
and me meet no place on earth so pleasant to me
as the house of God where you meet and no place
near to me as you are But I am not worthy
a name among the people of God But Christ
worthy and that will be our song when we
in to glory that heavenly throng which may
I grant to be our lot for Christ sake
Our Regulator is very Low most by keeps
use all our friends Besides in this place are
health and no more But they leave to
scribe my self your ~~unworthy~~ unworthy
other Theophilus Crocker

^{Dr. Crocker}
use to bear this to the brethren

Shes. Crocker,
lett. Oct. 26, 1778.

Rev. John

1778

My dear friends
Jerusalem October 26 - 1783
I take this opportunity to inform you
that we are as well as common through the
goodness of our God may these lines find you and yours
so likewise of inform you we are in a great struggle
to settle the gospel among us But of the combat was
greater I should have more hope But now I fear the
world will get the day my evening preaching among
us tho in Shontsbury we in Salem expect to gain
them But we are so stayed we know not when
God cometh the people of Shontsbury that way nobly
hear the gospel as if they would eat every word
but no resaball effect as yet But faith comy
By hearing and hearing by the word of God and
of hope God will prosper yet our friend and helpers
we hear from several towns abroad of the
great work of God old men in Salem ~~the~~ from
Eight to fourteen go praise ~~the Lord~~ the Lord
with great understanding & many that go to
meet and seek go back praising God or begging
for mercy & when I shall that be our case pray
give my respects to your family and to the Brethren
and sisters of the Church and to all my friends not
forgetting my relations I am ashamed to think of
my unfruitfulness when among you or what a spot
was in your feasts of Charity I never can forgive
myself But hearing I am not justly pious I long
to hear of the work of God among you I do
remember the last sermon I heard you preach
wherein you remanded the case of the Church in Sam-
Salem You commended & my fathers mothers &
Brethren & sisters in Christ Jesus I am persuaded
a name to live will not forsake you solely nor mine
nothing will forsake short of a Relapse that our
names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life

Geo. Becker's
Cott. May 28
1479

Recd. June 8.

S. B.

Mr.
The Rev. George Becker
in much love with you
in favor of Christianity

At Jerusalem October 26 - 1788
Sir I take this opportunity to inform you
that we are as well as Common through the
joynes of our god may these lines find you and yours
so likewise of inform you we are in a great struggell
to settle the gosple among us But of the combat was
grates I thout have more hoops But now I fear the
world will get the Day my ewing I preaching among
us this in Shontbury we in salam expect to joyne
them But we are so stoped we know not when
god cometh the people of Shontbury that way nobilly
hearers that all most worshipt spirit now set and
hear the gosple as if they wold eat every word
But no resaball effect I as yet But faith comy
By hearing and hearing by the word of god and
of hoop god will open yet our friend and helper
we hear from severil towrs & abroad of the
grat work of god old men an babes ~~the~~ from
eight to fourteen I asprage ~~the~~ from
with grat understanding & many that go to
week and seep go back praying for or beging
for mercy & when I shall that be our case pray
give my respects to your family and to the Brethren
and sisters of the Church and to all my friends not
forgetting my relations I am ashamed to think of
my unfruitfullnes when among you or what a spot
was in your hearts of Charety I never can forgive
my self But hearing I am not juste piece of Lenge
to hear of the work of god amonge you I so
remember the last sermon I heard you preach
wherein you denanted the Case of the Church in her
Barren I am constancly & my fathers mothers &
Brethrens sisters in Christ Iesus I am perswaded
a name to live will not falsify your self nor mine
nothing will falsify short of a Belife that our
names are written in the Lambes Book of life

Newspaper May 28 - 1879

Deere fur after my love to you and your family
dlooping these lines will find you in health as through
the bowers of joy we are at present our friends are all
well save Peter Bigelow he is yet in a weak state
but much comforted when he visits the women
and much loving is still with us and both Denominations
are much pleased with his preaching. But of how much
will on an infant. Ezechie's heers he is as one that plays
at God put it into your heart you will go for in him your
help is to hear hear God's new from to let cut put
I want to more particularly By a letter from you
of trust the Lord is causing the seed that's sown
to grow up and grow among you I thought the last
time I heard you that the State of the Church
looked very dark to you as you so wanted the Deeds
State of it that demonstration hath been making
direct on my mind ever since such makes me the more
to rejoice to hear of an increase among you

I hope the Lord will carry on his one work and that
ways will not only among you but far and wide even to those
Baron new Jerusalem's thirty tongues are exceeding of glory
starty love to the Church and Congratulate them in the
their increase of soul my mind free toward them
that have lately joined Belage I trust they are the Lord's
people. I can say the Church where good work is
near to me the same unworthy to belong to the same
But I have lately seen it is not my worthiness nor unworthiness

It is half a compleysure

Jerusalem October 25 - 1715
I take this opportunity to Inform you
that we are as well as Common through the
gouernes of our god may these Lines find you and yours
So likewise I Inform you we are in a great strigell
to settle the gosple among us But of the combat was
greater I should have more hope But now I fear the
world will get the Day my curing Is preaching among
us tho in Shontsbury we in fulam expect to Joyne
them But we are so staped we know not when
god cometh the people of Shontsbury that way nobilly
hearers that all most worshipt spirit now get and
hear the gosple as if they wold eat every word
But its resaball effect as yet But both comy
By hearing and hearing by the word of god and
I of hope god will open yet our friend and helper
we hear from severil towrs words of the
grat work of god old men an babies ~~that~~ from
Eight to fourteen praise ~~the~~ the Lord
with grat understanding & many that go to
work and soe go back praising god or beging
for mercy & when shall that be our call pray
give my respects to your family and to the Brethren
and sisters of the Church and to all my friends not
forgetting my relations I am ashamed to think of
my unfruitfullnes when among you or what a spot
was I in your feasts of Charety I never can forgive
my self But hearing I am not quite free of Lenge
to hear of the work of god amonge you I do
remember the last sermon I heard you preach
wherein you denanted the Case of the Church in Sam
Baron I am constancely & my ~~my~~ fathers mothers &
Brethren & sisters in Christ Jesus I am perswaded
a name to live will not falsify your folly nor mine
nothing will falsify short of La Belise that our
names are written in the Lambes Book of life

your loving friend
mery

that makes any dog with Christ for of his one will per-
he us to him self. But I must Conclude praying you to Right
to me By the same hand By which I send these Broken Lines
I send my love to all friends and to my uncles & aunts in
particular I want to Right more But time and paper
will not admit heartily yours
my wife also sends her love to you all
The opidley Crocker

of God put it into your heart you will go for in him your
help if you hear God using from to let out that
I want to hear particulerly By a letter from you
Sept 18th the Lord is blessing the seed that's sowing
Breed to run up an grow among you I thought the last
time I heard you that the State of the Church
looked very dark to you as you lamented the Decline
State of it that Demonstration hath had a malice
direct on my mind Ever since which may me the more
to Rejoice to hear of an increase among you

Sept 20 - 1787

Dear Jan

our kind and tender regards for you and yours I would
love you we are as well as common through Gods goodness and
these will find you enjoying the same blessing I received yours
for which I was glad my mind is with you in regard to the times
a strong spirit hath possessed the minds of many among us to
in Britton seems to be the desire of many while others
say if it was effected we should soon be brought under a
of bondage we nor our fathers were not able to have
I thank God hath a controversy with us for we have not

turned to give glory to him for his mercies and our expectations
cut off as a people the tumult rises in sum measure But
spirit remains we are informed by many around us of an
mon appearance like unto a large ball of fire passing about
rod high seen in many places and in Northampton in particular
the Tailor of my neighbours ran in to the house said the
ball also But I did not see it. But I believe such an appearance
to be seen and in the day time God only knows what will
be the person hath been wet an cold this summer yesterday and
they might there was considerable frost we expect but little

Relegion which ought to be first is become last Elder Riggs
desires his people be scattering and but one thing is left a
true love and peace Be God for that

and my dutiful respects to uncal Eddy and his wife I want to see
one more But I don't expect it in this world tell them
and an agreeable letter a few days ago from my eldest daughter
which she manifests that she hath found Jesus Christ God
Good and Blessed be his name

My respects to all my friends Sister Kimble last Paul inquired
me for a sheep farm for her son I have since bought
lace of forty acres joining to me under some improvement
your house but timber and a small orchard. Brought for
sheep a cow or two some and winter pretty well fenced and
land for our party the price lower than any would expect
pay to be in neat stock they please a pay day for part of price
the or any other round you apply soon they may get a good
price as I bought it cheap and don't need it I will sell
cheap - for please to forward the
letters and you'd oblige your
thy friend and well wisher

Thos Crocker

To
Elder Isaac Backus
in
Middlebrough
with care

Shes. Crocker's
Letter Sept. 20. 1784.
Rep. Sept. 30.
L. B.

I rec'd your letter late yr self instant - for which I thank you
I note to you: a number of persons have bin hospitably entertained
among us - I have ten or more: and from old sancts report of the
wilderness leaving us their abode: they begin to shoot the victory
and to go from house to house calling in all passengers to come from among
the gobs: the most part of the sancts among us seem to be favoured
with sunshins; among the converted one Calven Rickard and his
they begin to ~~rejoice~~ give you joy as they are of your ^{and} ~~rejoice~~ ^{abundance}
of soul that God be remembered to you and yours and ~~rejoice~~ ^{rejoice} grate long
native etc: when I prettially is much engaged in religion he &
~~as~~ ^{as} a number more will be baptised ~~the~~ we expect every
soon as they are desired to stay their love and master in that ~~man~~
three going with the deest about 17 - were baptised last week
members told their experience and were received as converted: from
very plenteous persons which were condemned by some old sancts when
and in our own a course of their ignorance: now give the most -
scriptural relation: a number still under our care but the work is
is not altogether so powerful as former past: it may it find place to
give my love to my brethren in Christ. I am much care this many
letter I send of this nature of you please brethren pray for us
that we may be faithful and valiant for the truth ~~in our~~

Thos. Crocker.
April 21. 1890
Rec. Am. ex.

S. B.

To Doer Backus
in Middleborough

Expecting the unexpected, I am sorry that I cannot conclude for now
papers and time. I am your sincerely affectionate brother in Christ. I was
very well also from New York to Mrs. Backus
and the rest of the family —
Thos. Crocker

ever for these com with my respects to you & yours
hoping they will find you all in health and prosperity
they leave us at present thank God's mercy we have
of your prosperos & joyful return to your former
flock of which we are glad. Doughtier you for him
of sum over turns taking place among us lately
Bigelow was desmised by a council the fall past
eccomend by the ch. to returne his office &
after the ch. obtained the improvement of Oliver
then which had bin striking at Temperance which seemed
be a second cause of grate unity among them and a
society gathered immediately and a remarkable
formation took place a number of people of different
have bin heartily converted in new salams last
from 7 to 12. and to 18^{gangs} and upwards and sum very
done and progrese a number of children have bin
tice this cold winter weather without the least rebellion
the cold among the ~~convarts~~ convarts it is heartfull the 2
ters of John Eddy namely presse and Lydia But they are
as yet ~~been~~ led into Baptism by Emersion -
in a short time past I trust the fire of divine love
brok over in to our Barontown sum of our
even which have bin scattered in the dark and
day day are returned to the fold again with tears
repentance and grate harmony at present among
Gods name Be all the glory - a number of young
boys appear to ^{under} tender soul concern crying out for
mercy surely I must say it is beyond what I have ever
seen or heard to my remembrance and ~~hefty~~ ^{as} it is ~~hefty~~
little childress. But I must remark amongst ^{us} one
that have bin firmly when to appear one there
nothing But an genty person of Galynes now one
died and cry hold your peace God is a God of order we cant
hear the preacher I wish your parents wold keep you at
home &c - may God on these farewether (Christy have mer
cy) not inform you of these trials But only as an ^{ex}
evidence that it is the work of God - it hath bin a very
long and dull time among us sum time a little grane of grief
desires were awake in the soul But Least this should be
amongst your ch. and people and you may perhaps be
at Disheartened and say are his tender mercies Clean gone
take Corriges my Bretheren for we obfaine the Darkest
Just before Day the sun of righteousness hath risen in
the wilderness of the grate River gloriously the promise
the profit is taken place the ~~last~~ wilderness hath blossom

any more. I hear it is a dark time among you & know
how to pity you by sad experience I hope you will forgive
my planeness of speech I know I am not worthy to
be heard or noticed. But Christ is worthy and I must plead
his case for his mercy induces forgiveness when I have a
glimpse of his love which I am not worthy of. It leads to the
place where I first had a discovery of Christ abt. 1807
place on earth so pleasant to becalmed and it seems as if
my soul took its flight or rather my mind over the moun-
tains in a moment to the pew in your meeting house
where I was slave by the law and I hope made alive by
grace and consequently to the ch- and people of God
~~perhaps you have heard of death of sister Eaton~~
pray send me a letter by my son the bearer of this
I want to hear of your welfare
please to give my respects to ^{all} my Brethren especially
to my acquaintances as you know well who they are
sister Eaton is dead - I remain your friend
Thos. Crocker
Shutes March 12- 1790

Thos. Crocker.
Mar. 12. 1790.
Recd. Mar. 18. -
J. B.

To
Elder
Isaac Backus
in
Middlebrough

good income of the giving of God to us in these parts
the worst of God is continuous in our town
and society and to his name be praise seven more
were received last Lord's Day with makes upward
of forty in one year from that day a number
more Give God Satisfaction that Don't yet
Come forward by Report parents being rigid
a number more under Condemn of Society & young
Convent meet for prayer and praise two or three
times a week it is of the Lord's Dings and
mercellus in our eyes I hope to hear the
same news from your party for God is long
suffering -
from your old friend the Rev. Corder

Shoos. Parker,
May 9. 1498.
Rm. May 16.
9. 23.

Answered, May 19. 1498.

To Elder
Isaac Parker
in
Middleborough

to pray. For light and understanding, and also that he
would by his patient supports, love and consolation, if my
sins were pardoned, give me some ^{stiff} salutary Evidence
thereof. And if other ways he had determined in his eternal
mind, that he would make it known unto me, if it
was agreeable to his Divine will. and tho I feared
him in this, and that I should offend my Guardian
yet I govt was the permission, that lay up on me,
that I was not able to refrain from this sort of
Supplication. at length on 4th Day the April
following, being Sunday, solicitor, I was desired by myself,
praising god for Christ's sake to govt my request
& having for a long time before, and indeed was at
the present I have said that I scarcely know my own
thoughts, thus the Day being past. I retired
to bed to repose myself, where I lay me down in
quiet to rest, when I am immediately ^{start} with a
case which laid unto me, thereby he who would
than have. I immediately arose on the bed supposing
to see the heavenly messenger, but seeing nothing
ing ^{nothing} more, I concluded, that this was no less than
the voice of almighty god, who had commanded at this
time to govt my request. whereupon I ^{immediately}
made it without the least hesitation or doubt
but god would ^{not} grant it. and my Desire
was that the Lord would of his infinite goodness
mercifully command to govt me as he showed in ^{the} ^{an}
manifestly on Earth.

But

at last and what can be the meaning of this.
and while I was thus striving to find out something
to this, I began to remember that once I had seen
Christ as Advocate and my Redeemer; and I had
supposed that I was redeemed from the curse of
the Law by him, and my soul was delighted
with the glad tidings of peace and pardon bought by
the blood of the Lamb. now I was almost satisfied
of my well being in Christ Jesus. but alas the
voice came thoughts into my head to disturb
my peace: here was my spirit's trouble indeed.
for now I began to consider my case was
desperate, and surely without hope. for I had
committed all sin, in open violation of his Law,
and Against all light, and knowledge that he had
induced me with, and thereby had Godified the Son
of God, I hope, and put him to an open shame.
Surely if there is any hope for me, Christ must
be crucified a second time. how great was my
Misery: I knew not what to conclude. Some times I would
blaspheme for his sake, long long suffering and tender
Mercy, and my Redeemer a ^{second} time, for his
Amazing Condescension, love and infinite compassion
which I hardly knew. and I left in doubt full of the
extended merits of him, and I thought would be ^{placating}
dependent and merciful of him, which I had thought
was ⁱⁿ place as a ^{second} time.

Upon

Theo. Doehring
Mar. 26. 1791.
Rec. Apr. 11. 2.

When my feet were as fast as mine, I set out with great vigour. I was only to sleep, and the rest of my day was spent in my usual work. I set out with great vigour. I was only to sleep, and the rest of my day was spent in my usual work. I set out with great vigour. I was only to sleep, and the rest of my day was spent in my usual work.

May 27 - 1799

after my respect to you in your wishing health
I would inform you we are as well as Common I am
I have and never expect to be any better in this world
these are light afflictions I find grate reason to bless
under every furcomfance and say with ye poet this is
at I wonder at that I am of out of hell - God se good
last february to take away my wife I trust from the
well to come after long weekends with she indur with
much patience through grace: pray for me that this
work be sanctified for good to my ~~body~~ Soul: I can inform
that after along winter it is in sum blessed measure
ming time in our town six have ben aided to the Ch.
within 3 weeks one or two more give good satisfac
in a number more under fears conform about their
only: our Elder seems greatly stuned up after long
people in his family his only son - Delected and
old not safer him to take the Bible in hands if in
is sight: But his Disorder is a little abated -
the work began in family ever opposed to what we
profess and indeed to all relegen the Lord
last Both the man and his wife on a sick Bed
and took away one Child by death the winter
now they are the foremost in praising and adoring
free grace and redeeming love we had abeter
the other day Decon Montague a younger son to
Hager Montague of Levenet preached to grate
satisfaction considering his youth and lately began
to preach he appears every qualified to fill up
the place of his Deceased father who was a great
prop in Montague and Levenet Church
Bretheren pray for us that the work of God
may be Caried on in this place by him self: and o
may it reach middleborough and Briggwater with
highly favoured of the Lord: pray Rite to me
when you have opportunity my life
I Remane your unworthy Brother in ^{life} fellowship and Love of
the truth

Theop. Crocker

Just
I now heard of one more
of our towns men being brought out
of Satans Kingdom a man that say
that persecuted a little while ago
his wife for joining the Ch.
Bretheren Christ ~~and~~ Ranes
Let the Earth rejoice

x. Feb. 18.

Shoeph. Parker
Aug. 24. 1797.
Rec. June 8.
S.B.

To Elder

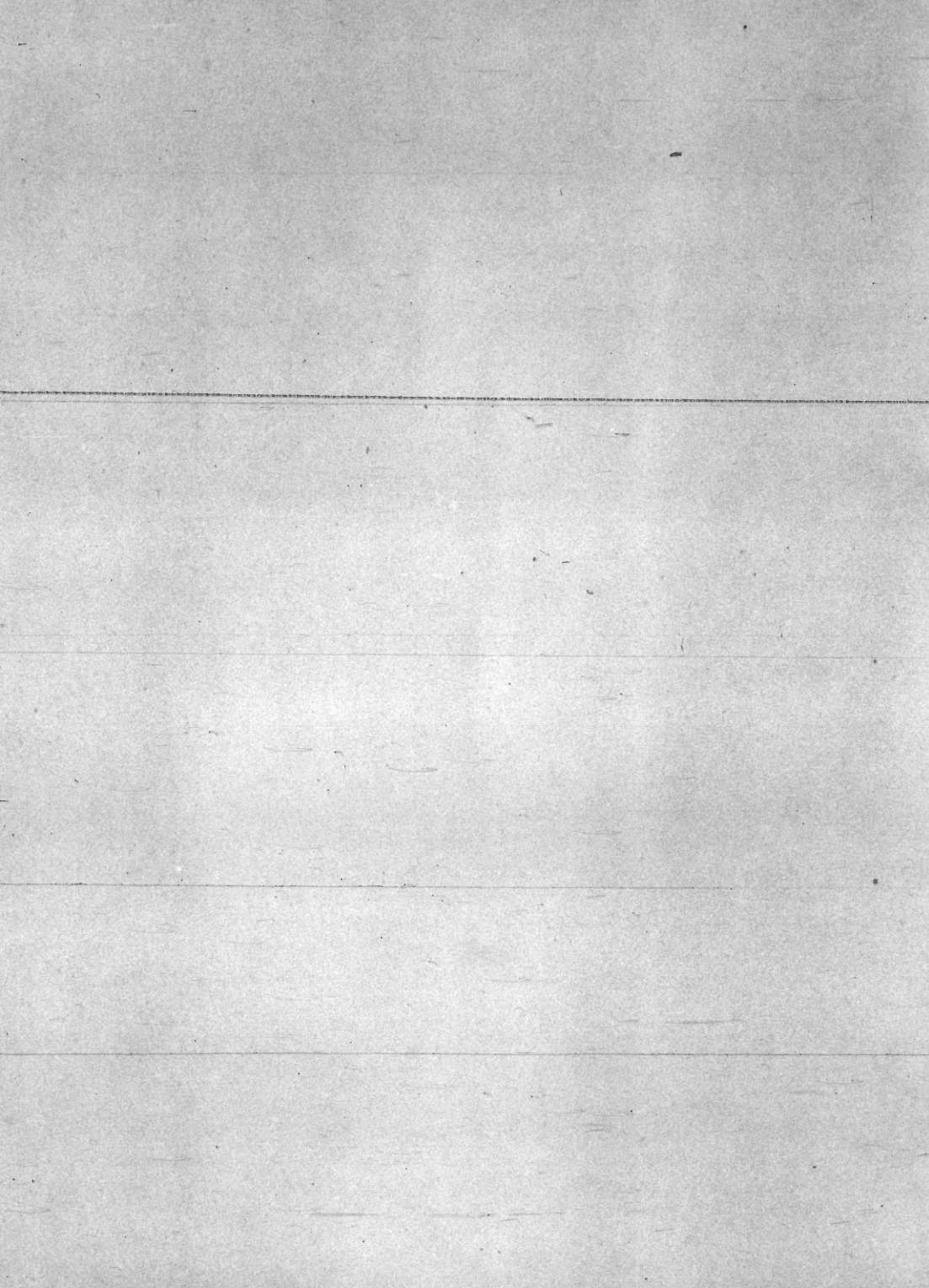
Backus

in

Middleborough

Ms. A. 9. 2. 3. 69 (1753) Plym: Sep: 23 1753
My very Dear Brother in Christ Jesus our Lord,
I gladly do embrace this Opportunity of writing to you
or Brother Ewer. would inform you that since I saw
you I saw Durham twice have been under great
dily weakness great parts of the time since we parted
Gods Strength is perfected in our weakness, the fields
while indeed in those Eastern parts for a large harvest
have faith to believe that the Setts time to favour
is coming on, the Spirit & the bride & the Spirit
the Bride say come Even so Amen & I remember
it you told me concerning the wrestling frames given
into you last year on Zions behalf Dear Brother not
your prayers & mine but Millions & Millions of the
saints of the Saints in past ages of the world put up
Zions behalf are all exactly registred & entred, upon
in Gods book of remembrance and when the Setts
time to favour Zion comes God will appear in his glory
and build up Zion He will not then Despise the prayer
of the Destitute but regard their prayer, Perhaps the
seventh Angel will suddenly begin his Blast & you
know what we both long for follows Immediately, my
heart is sometimes made to agonize for Dear Zion
with weeping Eyes I survey her broken walls. but
again thro rich grace I am enabled to take a turn
at Mount Zion in the light of faith & to count her
walls & Enumerate her bulwarks & to view all the divine
fortifications as so many Impregnable bulwarks set for her defence
ready to cry out Surely there is no Inchantment against
nor Divination against Israel all his Enemies will be found
who art thou O Great Mountain before the glorious
Babel, I believe purgation is soon coming to Levi house
Epits in New England will not so generally ring with
the language of ungodliness I mean the Intermixing Law & Gospel
with the language of Justification, but God will return to his people
the language Dear Brother when our glorious Zorobabel
shall rise in the plain witnesses down Gods Dragon with his
hippers Baals priests the money changers will either
turn over

will either be converted or thrust out of the ministry for
God has promised that they shall be clean that bear the vessels
of the Lord, my Friend perhaps ere long Antichrist in new
England will mount up his accursed head & ten horns
and some of his first Language will be to plead the Civil
Magistrates right over the Conscience in order to Rob our
Glorious Head Husband Lawgiver & King of His regal Crown
& kingly power & then tis likely the term of New Lights
and Separate will become but one I believe without repentance
furnace trials will heal the Divisions of the Godly
Laced Distemper has Lier'd almost the whole of North America
Dry Supple forms are hugg'd & Embrac'd in the Room of
vital & powerfull religion fear of man is baptiz'd with the
Specious name of humane prudence Quakers & hypocrites are
sweetly united in planting Churches Cold Iron and hot are
Lately Soddred in Manomits Ponds & in many other places
A Storm A Storm A Storm without repentance over the
whole Continent of North America Gray hairs Cover the
Church & she knows it not, almost all the Signs of the times
According to Gods word are weather breeders the Lord knows
whither the fire will not yet try new Englands religion
Prepare to meet thy God Oh new England I have many
things to write but am short of paper Desire a line from
you the first opportunity. our friends at Durham are very
Desirous to see you & I believe you will see it Duty to visit
them. I had opportunity in my last Journey of 5 weeks to preach
forty three ^{sermons of them at Durham} Sermons or thereabouts and the Lord was with me
all glory to His name a great thirst after the word full meeting
Christians frequently refresh Multitudes convinced scarce
a meeting without sensible Divine presence Glory to God
a remarkable door open at Newington at Newmarket at
Haverhill I desire you to call at Haverhill when you pass along
call at Mr Swantowns the Ship builder his wife is a Dipinist
indeed he very friendly near 150 hearers when I preacht there call
at Mr Agers of Haverhill whose Door & heart is open also at
Mr Shepards Tavern A miles beyond Haverhill on the Road to
Kingstown a Pilgrims house to recruit at Give my kind Love
to your family & Church Desire a remembrance in their prayers
am bound in Spirit to take a long Journey Eastward very shortly
tis the delight of my soul to blow the Gospel Trumpet & to proclaim
Liberty to poor Captives Let men & Devils rage a great & an
effectual door is open & there be many advantage Hoping God will
Direct & bless you in all your affairs & in what you are now upon
with heartful love to dear Brother Snow & Zwers I rest in the Lord. J Roswell



Wrentham June 24th 1764

Dear Brother Backus withings

I take a few minutes to Inform You Concerning the Eastward I
am homeward bound from those parts, Brother Ewer at Newmarket
in Piscatiqua about the latter End of march, came to his people all in
a flame and a great concern began the first day of april in that
awfully secure & hardnet place (viz) newmarket a great crying out
near 40 converted in that society since april the first to June 8 -
near 40 families round mr Ewers he tells me are under conviction
I have preacht considerable at newmarket on the journey tis a
mere Heaven upon Earth for ever have been awakened in
Wrentham lately under Brother Ewers preaching a crying out in
Wrentham the 2 last nights I preacht there and one Magdalene
saw the Lord converted in sermon time all glory to God alone
Dear Brother the Fields are white to the Harvest I have preacht to
at assemblies at Newbury & the Spirit descends like a rushing wind
most all the children seem to be awakened about Ipswich Chebacco
were propounded last sabbath at Chebacco at Mr Cleavelands
I heard all their relations, messiahs Spiritual reign advances
Amen alleluia the Lord God omnipotent reigns Babylons fall
is actually at the Door amen amen Hallelujah, Dear Brother
there is a cry for preaching East forward Brother Mellins I
have mentioned the Pilgrims Houses to call at in Brother Mellins
or which you may have recourse to if you should see it Duty
to visit the Eastward, I lately saw Brother Jones I heard him
preach for Brother Ewer at newmarket he was bound to Goreham Town
please to forward a Line to his wife Informing her of her husband.
I suppose will be near a fortnight before he returns I
Your Brother in Gospel Bonds; Joseph Crosswell

there is a Church just gathered in newmarket & the wilderness
promises, like a hope Brother Ewer is like to settle there in a sweet
fellowship amen amen.

marshes - being many a farm

Joseph Croswell
Letter Jun 23. 1964.

Mr. Croswell, Letter
of June 23. 1964.

recd. 4 24. 9. 1864

Nov 10 - 10 83
Frederic W. Packus, Falmouth

Sir, this comes to
inform you, that John Frederick Ringner
as he called himself in these parts, is indebted
to me by his note of hand to about 16 or 17 \$
- said Ringner has absconded from ^{this place}, and I
do not know his place of abode, nor his
circumstances - He is a Dutchman by nation
and married a black woman for a wife -
He was a member of the Baptist church in
Marblehead - Being myself a favorite of
the Christian religion, and putting confidence
in its professed subjects - said Ringner on
this account, has been well worthy of my
forbearance, till length of time & experience
has excited my distrust of his pious and just
principles, and unless he speedily makes just
returns to me, shall put the note in the hands
of some attorney, by whom he will be
summoned to our next Court held in Rann's Lake
- I am about leaving this part of the
country, and my business must be speedily
settled - This is to desire the ^{you} to inform me of
him ^{within} your knowledge
which you may do by the Post if you please & thereby
you will much oblige your humble servant
David Rowell Jr.

David Crowder Jr.

Nov. 18. 1900

Dec. 19.

8. 13.

Hyland Dec. 20.

Pembroke July 22 1789

Rev Sir

Very alarming is the Circumstances
of the family of M^r John McFarland Jun^r
of this ~~the~~ Town a son of his deceased with
some evil spirit in an unheard of manner
in our day the Particulars ^{are} too much to
Eight M^r Ford who I expect will bare
this line is able to give a more full account
but those judgements in our Land can
think aloud for fasting & Prayer
With the assistance of all the Redeemed of
our blessed Lord & saviour Jesus Christ
before whom the Devils were subject whilst
here on Earth

Dear Sir if any ^{way} Conscient would desire
a Visit from your self as soon as may
be that ^{we} may join at the throne of grace
by Prayer and supplication to Impore
mercy of almighty God who alone can
help us is the Ear^{nest}est of Dear your
humb^le Servt in the Bonds of the Gospel

M^r Backus

W^m Curtis J^r

James Buchanan
Middleburgh

MS

Curtis's letter

July 22. 1789.

Recd. July 23.

J. B.

Cambridge feby 15th 1796

Sir -

I acknowledge my obligations of
thanks to you for taking the trouble to
take and send me my requesters but at
the same time worth inform that I
can get them from Boston much
easier and cheaper than from middle
borough as I have a chance to send
them almost every week and heard
of Doct^r Stillmans having them
before they were sent to you and
could have had them brought to me
had it not been that they were sent
up to send to middle borough

therefore Dear Sir if you will please
to leave my name with Doct^r
Stillman in your way you will much
oblige your humble Serv^t

W^m Beechus Will^m Curtis

If Sir you can make it convenient
to visit us this Spring or Summer
we shall be glad

Wm. Curtis
Feb. 15. 1796.
Recd. Feb. 20.
9. 23.

To
Beckus in
atter. & Son
of the Church

of mi
in sep. 19

Edw. Jackson
Sept. 8. 1453

Olong September ye 8-1783

Dear Sir after my Regards to you those unknown to
you by face I take this opportunity to Rite to you
these few Lines hoping they may find you well as they
Leave me Sir I Should be glad of a more intamat
a quantance with you but our Distance from each other
makes it difficult but to in form you of our Present ^{Stones} ~~uncom~~
in matters of Religion the Lord has been gracious to us
in a few months past a number has been brought to the
a benediction of faith and into gospel order a bout fifty
been aded to the Church and we are with Peace amongst
our selves the Lord Reains Let the Earth Rejoyse

I Returne you Thanks for your Love to me and in token of
it you sent me a small Box for which I am much
obliged to you I Should be very glad to see you and if
hear of Providence Permitt and if not Please to Rite me
by the bearer hear of it no mor att Present but in hast
I subscribe my self your friend and Companion in
tribulation

Simon Takin E P D or

to Mr Beckus Elder of the Baptist Church
in ~~Bridge water~~ middel bercey

Mr
Isaac
Bridge
of the
By
was

My dear friend On the 26. of March I rec^d your agreeable fav^r.
is ^{is} the more valuable to me as it shows one that I am not
forgetter of my good friend. Be pleased to accept my hearty thanks
for your sermon, it came safe to hand as y^r Letter. The Effusions
of filial piety are particularly pleasing to me at this time,
when every thing around me brings to my memory My Dear
father, who is gone to his Father, & I hope & trust, Our Father; to
him tis gain, to me, Loss; a Loss so great as can't be replaced
in earthly good. I don't wish him back, I wish to be with him, &
no more to be separated, to praise the blessed Redeemer in perfect joy;
for, alas, my dear friend, I feel such coldness, I can't love, I can't
praise as I w^d! w^d to god I w^d!

I am much, very much pleased with the News of many be-
coming friends to the friend of Sinners; I am sure it is right, it is good;
Jesus deserves them all. And I wish I w^d tell many good things of
Religion in my own Country; but I cannot, and I can't help
saying that Our professors, to their shame be it said! have inverted
the good Instruction, and instead of "provoke one another to love
and good Works;" they seem to provoke One another to hate, envy, &
bad works. They seem to have lost the kernel and are contending a-
bout the shell; and they are the most Religious, who can censure
most. From them I intend to fly, and hope to see you in May.

I have much to say, but will leave it till I have the pleasure
of seeing you, & rest, with best wishes, for your prosperity, in fact, & body
your sincere friend, & brother,
To Rev. Isaac Backus
J. Ga-

Mr. Davis -

S. B.

Davis.

From Mr. John

Mr. J. W. Jackson -

Mr. John Davis's letter.

Recd. June 1, 1940.

J. B.

Back

Bost. Feb. 10. 1774

My dear friend The present situation of Affairs of the Baptist Denomination demands the attention of all the friends of Truth. and because I regard you as one of them, I now address you, hoping you will be enabled to advise for good. There is now a fresh attempt made by the Baptists against the Friends of Truth that be as we have made late - if we are beat off, I conjecture, on the other side, will be important to them and will avail much against us; more especially as they have removed some, purchased Baptists, from our interest, and, like Satan when changed into an Angel of Light, fought us with our own Weapons. - This therefore must be a spur to the Friends of Truth, who prize Truth more than their present gain, and who love the Sinner more than Wife, or Children, friends or Neighbours; Nay more than their own Lives. - For my own part I am ready to forego all things else that I may do good to the South. - Let me then inform you, that Messrs. Smith & Stillman being chosen attending Comtee did, as you know, address the Genl Court; and were ordered by the Court to summon the proprietors of the field to appear, to defend themselves against our Complaints. - Now Mr. Stillman says he will move that the Court not wait on the Court to support the prayer of the Comtee in their petition, by his thus refusing the Court has not repeated that Law, of blame will not be on the Court but on us; & they will say we have complained without cause; the say the people of the field have done before, & when the matter came to the point, the Complainants fell off; & if they have suffered it was by their own default. - Now Mr. Stillman will betray the cause of his Constituents, and forfeit the confidence his Brethren have reposed in him; & ought never more to be trusted: and while he feeds his Love of Fame he wounds the Baptist Cause; which must be repaired again as well as its friends can. - What I have to propose is - That a Majority of the Comtee agree upon it, & call, by a Notification, the Churches belonging to the Association together in Spring, that we may lay before them the State of Baptist Affairs; that we may have a New Comtee, and New Orders. - For if the matter be decided till next fall, it may then be too late for us to avail ourselves of advantages that are now in our power. - I propose the following form of a Notification - viz - To all Churches, in New England, belonging to the Baptist Association, greeting. - We whose names are hereto signed, members of a Comtee chosen and appointed by the Association, at their last annual Meeting, for the Management of Baptist Affairs, find ourselves situated, by the reason of the Conduct of some of the Members of said Comtee, that unless some remedy be speedily applied, great evils are like to come upon that part of the Comtee who have loved their Religion so well, and have been so honest and faithful to the trust you have committed to them, as to prefer Truth to popular favour. - Which remedy is alone in your hands of our Constituents, the Churches that compose the Baptist Association. - You are therefore desired to meet in Association, by

your Messengers, or Delegates, on Wednesday 17th of April next, at Belington
(here you may put any place you think most convenient) at 10 O'clock in
forenoon; when a true account of all I^s Comers hath done since their last ap-
pointment shall be laid before —

Signed Isaac Backus

West Alden

Rev. Gridley

Neth. Whimpton

Philip Freeman Jun^r

A Majority of Comers

J. Davis

Make such alterations and amendments as you think best — & transmit to
me by first good opportunity what you think of this affair — For young
and unexperienced, I walk with Diffidence, and wishing to do all things
right am anxious for I^s Best — Brother, pray for me, that I may
be directed & enabled to glorify my God, & favour; which to do is I^s
heartly Desire of your friend and Brother, in Jesus of Lord Jesus —

J. Davis

Mr. John Davis
Letter Feb 18. 1741

Widdowery

on

The Rev. Isaac Backus

Do

Green Beten
1771. 6. 18
Apr 14
9. 13

Backus

for the Rights of white & colored people. And of them.

Boston May 5th 1839

Dear Brother

I wrote yesterday, and sent letters to Mr. Freeman, expecting you would have had it by the bearer of your fare, which I did; but I saw Mr. Freeman who told me, he had not sent it - I was therefore obliged to inform you that I returned the day before yesterday from Boston; all we did was to give the same advice you gave in your letter to them - I visited Haverbridge, Charleston & Sutton, & Frampton; & find that our people are some times wrong for want of knowledge - I pray therefore when you go to the Westward to be as careful as your own prudence & wisdom will direct, in ordering the affairs of the Churches, to visit, or help in constituting - I want also that you would collect the History of the Baptists, as particularly as you can - I have lately had letters from our friend Mr. Swends, giving me intelligence of our affairs at Home - The King supports us by our Complaint before Him -

The general Court has not repealed the Highfield Law - The people of Mass. sent down a Com. & Counterpetition, in which they deny every thing we have said - I intend to sit out for Mass. next Tuesday - I expect a Com. will be called to meet the 25th day of this Inst. May - I went alone to Court to support the petition; & was treated very roughly by the Com. of Boston & County. I should be glad you would call in Boston, if you go on your journey before the 25th - I want to see you - I expect to be back from Mass. about the 15th day of this month -

In great haste from your friend J. Davis

To

The Rev. Isaac Barker

Good by
in Middlebury
New York

From Boston May 3. 1771

Dec. May 4. 1771

J. B.

Mr. John Davis
Letter May 3. 1771

for the Purport of a later Controversial Piece of mine
entitled A Reasonable Plea for Liberty of Conscience &c. I find the
following words concerning the Quakers. -- "Which Argument
however specious it has appeared to many carries nothing deeper than
that old Quaker notion, That when a person has the Spirit within him he
is then perfect -- thou art pleased to call it an Old Quaker Notion
I should therefore take it kind if thou would favour me with a few lines
informing where thou hast it; for I am it is entirely new. I hope thou
wilt take this request amiss but comply with it as soon as conveniently
may be. -- From thy True & hearty well-wisher

Bartholomew W. W. W.

Tim Davis

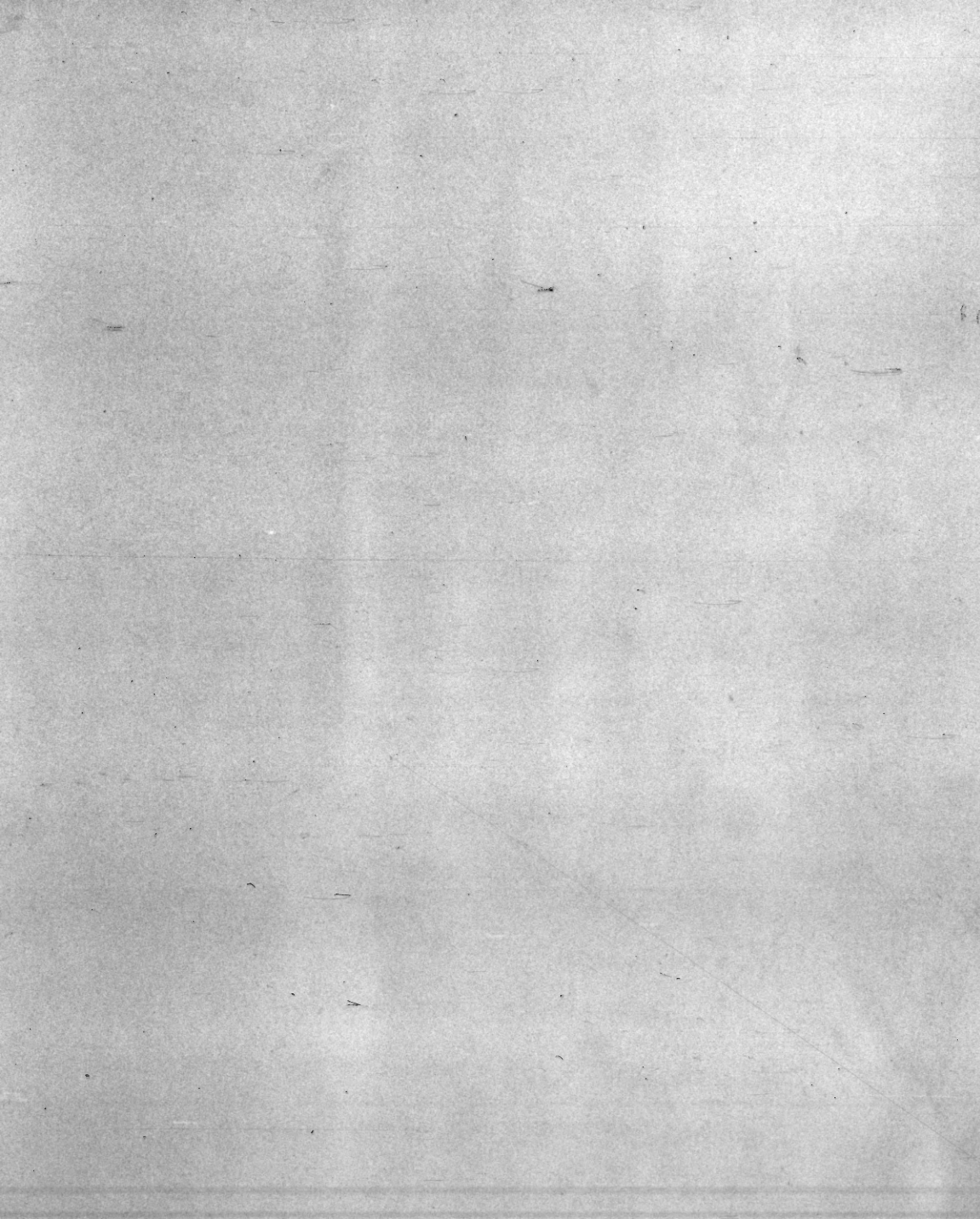
Sim^r. Davis
concer^g. Perfection.

John D. Burdett
Nov. 21. 1770
Rev. &c. 25. 8. 10.

To
Hannah Backus
of
Middleborough
Mass

As for what Mr. Parker hath said
concerning the late ^{Offerations} of the season that hath
in this town is undoubtedly true and
I might justly ^{have} said more as was
witness to the chief of what was done
at Dr. Larin's when ^{Mr. Fletcher} preached
there was a great deal of ^{very} ^{valuable} ^{and} ^{interesting} ^{among} ^{things}
some of our leading men there, I all so see
that Gilson was he spoke out and for his
preachers. and I saw the Governor that Mr.
James ^{of} I all so saw Cornel Wood, who
was the party that was Baptized and says to
Fletcher he was a dust in my eye and if I
came into town in such a manner he would hope to
and many more threats which amounted to
ing short in my view than I felt
in short is what I see much more might
be to be ~~in my view~~ only affair
on account I am ready to testify for need
for good
Jesse Davis

Wilson. Davis.
1978.



Dear friend

Boston May 1. 1774 3. 1774

This morning recd. your fav^r of Apr. 23. in w^{ch}
you mention of Rec^d of of Intelligence respecting a Meeting of
of H^lships — The Court met; M^r. Stillman w^o not support in you
the petition; I w^o not; on^{ly} guided to one; the Com^{ee} of both H^lships
sat upon the Bap^t. Petition & I appeared to support it; they the good
abused one & the petition much; & finally did not repeal or of
of Ashfield Law; for, as they Council told Smith, they w^o not
have repealed it if the Bap^t. of Ashfield had petitioned; but,
they w^o not for a Com^{ee} of Grievances — & called the Com^{ee} only
of the Bap^t: all the Bad things imaginable — The Pres^{by} or his
ple of Ashf^d, & presby^{ter}. petition against of Bap^t: this pe-
tition contained seven ^{pages} & an half; filled wth it of
of wth slander of of Bap^t: I intend to get a copy of it — the

They opposing party denyd all that we have said in
the Petition; I intend then for next week, if I can, to go an
to Ashf^d. & know all that I can — yesterday we
turned for Brimf^d; where we have had a conference
We did only advise, to what you had advised in your
Letter to Mr. Ewing — Yesterday recd. Letter from
Mr. Edwards, who desires you w^o forward an out of the
Ch^{ur} in N. England — I believe we can't have a
meety of H^lships, but must of course; Next Monday we
shall have a Meety of Members in this town to deter-
min on agent meety — Which I propose shall be on
of 25. of this Inst May — I wd. your Remarks, they are not very
printed; the Reason, I wd. tell you I have of pleasure of seeing
you — I am as ever your undivided friend W. C. Adams

no. John Davis
Letter Ap. 23, 1771

Midbrough

The Rev. Isaac Backus

Dear Brother

Boston Aug. 3. 1772

Thro' the unspeakable & unmerited goodness
of our God I am a good deal Better than when you
saw me; I have preached every Lord's Day since,
& blessed be God! I find a great Desire for the good
of Souls, tho' Bodily Weakness stops the ardor of
my Desire; Last Lord's Day, glory to my Lord Jesus!
I had sweet experience of the Gospel, & was
strengthened, in Body & Mind, far beyond my
expectations; Oh help to praise God for his
unwearied Mercy to the most unworthy!

Since you was here I have accidentally got a
following valuable piece of History, viz. In the
year 1638, came to this Country, & settled first in
Charlton's Town, Seth Sweetser, who brought an
family with ^{him} from Spring in Hartford Co.
Conn. They were all Baptists; & they appear
to me to have been, if not the first Bapt.
among the first that came to Massachusetts.

They continued in the Faith until the
Parent Generation, - When Seth, degenerated to
pedobaptism; instances of this kind I have
but rarely met with since in N. Eng. -
Concerning the Baptists that first came here,

The following things are True - 1. That they ~~was~~ never
were admitted as inhabitants in the Town, you know
what was of old fashion of settlement. 2. They were
allowed to buy land, & to possess, but not in com-
mon with the Town; then for they were, in the Be-
gining put to many hardships on this account.
3. Tho they were not Members of the Community,
& had not privilege of Choice, or Election of any
kind, yet they were made to pay their share
for the Support of the Community, & they were
also sat to the Maintenance of a Minister,
shop Portoral Care, & Labors they were not
allowed to enjoy, as not being worthy -
These things I got from the grave Stones
in the Burying Place of Charlestown, &
from the old Records of the Town, which I
have been favoured -

I had a Design of writing to the Association,
but have not strength, please to excuse me to
My Brethren -

I send you enclosed two or three old Papers,
I have not met with any others -

Farewell - J. Davis -

Mr. Davis saild from
Boston for Philadelphia with
his sister Aug. 15. 1792, and
never returnd. but died near
the Ohio Dec. 13. 1792.

you p
it

John Davis Esq.
Aug. 3. 1772.

To

The Rev. James Brainerd

at
Christ Church.

I look upon that I shall
and may see duty to go into the
meeting-house when you preach
there to stand as a witness for god
how his word is handled and his
spirit treated by you but god forbid
that I should do anything by way
of approving of what you have
done relating to my dismember-
ship for I believe that god abhors
your turning of things upside down
these from your good and misused
friend Anna Dells

Anna Delis
Letter.

Recd. April 26.
1772.

J. B.

To Mr
Jesse Deans

Mr Doakletts Letter
from Middletown

Oct. 23. 1769.

Recd. Dec. 3.

J. B.

To
Naac Backus
in

Middleborough.

Delivered with Care

these things with I want
 you that you may know our
 true as to Mr. Gooding's
 trust that he will eternally reign
 in glory and and there is a
 doubly number of Christian
 brethren in that Church
 and they they do not seem
 to be so much against the
 Baptists as he doth

Middletown the First
 Society October 23: 1769
 Abraham Doolittle

Now if you will please to send me a letter
leave it at the House of William Burts at
the ware at Trenton
If you thus do you may have an opportunity to
send it by one Thrasher to Middletown
Yours from Abraham Doolittle
Middletown
October. 23. 1769

From Mr. Zook
Oct. 28. 1469.

Adm Zook & Co
Letter Oct. 28. 1469.

For the ministers of Christ was deare to me and
Christians was dear to me and the word was dear
me. Mr. Frothingham seemed to be one of the
most precious servants of Jesus Christ.
But as I said before we kept up meetings about
2 or 3 years.

And another trial came on my mind very heavy
and powerfull which was Baptism and I dare
not tell any of the Christians of my trials
because I was afraid it would off brake
allship betwene us and I thought this would
be a grate thing when we was in such Love and
unity I do not remember to ever did see one
rightly or in all this time anything said about
Baptism by these Christians Except one young man
that was Newly Converted and he was quickly
into it.

This being the Labour of my mind about 2
years and I was in a grate Desire to get a right
understanding of this Ordinance.

And I trust thro the word of God it ^{was} made manifest
to my understanding that None but Believers
are Subjects of Baptism and that Dipping is
the mode.

And upon this I Desired a meeting to be warmed
among us that we might be Separated to know what was
the reason we did not come into a visible Covenant
Relation with God and one another.

And we came together and I told my mind Concerning
Baptism. and they were so much Aversion to that
that I do not remember that ever since they moved
it for me to pray among them.

Whereupon this young man above mentioned
that was into Baptism ^{and I} went to visit the Bapt
is. Brethren at Westbrook and Lyme. this being the
first time that I ever saw any of Baptise People

again ^{and we} went to New London to visit them
in their quarters. And we joined to the Church that Joshua Morse hath
the Charge of.

About this time God converted one of my Natives
A woman ^{Anne Bacon} and she was led into the Nations of
Baptism and Brother Mark the ~~young~~ young man
above mentioned. Married a Christian woman
these two ^{women} went down to Eder Morfe Church
and joyne to them after this God converted another
young ^{woman} ~~man~~ and she was led to Eder Morfe Church
At this time ^{or about} ~~some~~ M^r Frothingham ^{had} come from Wethers
field to Middletown and gathered a Church there
but M^r Frothingham opose us that was Baptise to the
ut most Publick and Privat Preaching and Praying
whole sermons upon such texts as these
the secrets of the Lord are with them that leave him
and he will shew unto them his Covenant. Psalm
as the 11 epis of John 2: 19. Being Bringing in the
Crows of ~~Shedden~~ Jarland, Douglas, and Abba
showing there antinomian Crows saying that the Baptise
Began first as they Did first Denying & infant Bapt
second Re baptising &c
Now he has taken such a text as this ~~for~~ for the subject
of his sermon to prove infant Baptism Gla: 3: 29
and ~~expounding~~ expounding this Chapp
and about this time he wrote ~~this~~ a Letter on Baptism
and his prayers are against the Bapt. principle
Expressing such Expressions pray that God would ~~blot~~
blot the Baptise I keme detect detect it bring it down
Bring it to Confusion &c. I ^{preaching}
and much of this instead of a Jesus Christ and him
Crucified of this ~~in~~ instead of a Jesus Christ and him
Eder Morfe has Preached among us several times
M^r L. has warned People to not to hear him as a
as a man of Groes and a dis. orderly rather &c
and publicly saying the Baptise ^{in some places} is more engaged to
git Persons into the water then to the sanctification
of there souls. and he has to do one that they were more
then for the salvation of there souls. but i forbear
but to returne Sister marke is dead. and Sister Storis
Dead and Sister Bacon is moved 100 mile frome this
station so that there was left none but Brother M^r
and my selfe
and about a year agoe the Power of God was
manifest in middletown and a Number hopes
fully converted and sum of them have had trials com

Learning Baptism but this Letter of Mr. Frothingham
has to has settled some of them in our infant
Baptism and some has joyned to his Church, and others
and others ^{are} not yet satisfied.

And now sin I would let you know that i by the
providence of God came to the knowledge of your
writing an answer to Mr. F. Letter But i can
not obtain the favour of seeing the Copy of it
by him

for if it is printed send a Number of the Copy of it
this way that we may have them among us
Mr. F. Letters is spread among us

and a grate many of his Sermons ^{are} the same Language
of his letter that is concerning Baptism

Altho he saith the Baptists Do more hurt to
the Cause of God then all the opposers in the
Land

and as Eben morse came hear this Last Summer
to preach Mr. F. publicly Rejected him and ~~warne~~
warne his People not to hear him

But untill this Last Summer we that are Baptists
have been his constant hearers but Now we think
about our Duty to hold worship by our selves among
God hath brought in our young women

this Summer and joyned to ~~Per~~ young women
and now there is a Number of sober think
ing Persons among us in this Town

and if you can think it Duty to come among us
and see us and preach among us by C

for there is a Number of Christs Lambs that
Do want feeding

Mr. Daniel Miner has been improved among
the young Converts to there help and

Nourishment or growth in Grace
Pray send ^{the} answer that you vote to Mr.

Frothingham ^{printed} Letter as soon as you can
These from your Loving Brother in the Lord

Middletown
October: 23: 1769
Abraham Doolittle

Mr. Frothingham saith that if you do print that please agree
hom. the Lord giving opportunity he would write again and tell all the
sins and evil workings of the Bapt. that ever came to his knowledge
and make the thing clear

Adm. Doolittle
Letter Oct. 23. 1769.

A Letter from Middletown
Oct. 23. 1769.
Rev. Soc. B. J. Backus

Dear and Loving Brother in Christ
it may seeme some what strange to you that
I should write to one that I never had any acquaintance
in the flesh.
Therefore I shall give you a shorte Narrative of my
Self
I trust God converted my Soul in my younger
years but after that I was left to live a Carcase
like the at the same time when I heard the word
of God powerfully ^{preached} it drew forth my harte to the
Love of Divine things
But about 14th or 15 years since I read Mr. Bun-
yans Book of the two Covenants and what I read
seemed to be so agreeable to the word of God
and what I experienced that my harte was gratefully
sensitive to it
and at this time I had not any labours that would
draw me from the Power and Expec-
tation of the Kingdom of God
and now I thought it a grate blessing if I could find
some such man as Mr. Bunyan was that I could
open my mind to
soon after this Mr. E. Frothingham came
and preached in Middletown and I went to hear
him and in his sermon I professed
I thought it was the man that came the nearest
to Mr. Bunyan of any man that I ever
heard of in my life
and from about that time there was a
small number separated from the Standing Church
and Congregation but we had but little preaching
but sometimes the Lord sent his ministers among
us as Mr. J. Melhall Mr. ~~See~~ Dues Mr. John
Fuller Mr. Frothingham
and the meeting was kept up 2 or 3 years
that is to say a separate meeting on the Sabbath
but there was no Church gathered as yet
about this time my mind was gratefully exercised
whether it was my duty to separate or not
but ^{my conscience} I was established in my mind

dear Friend. Middletown May 30. 1770

your favour of Feb. 1. I recd. in April
in which you have wrote to me Concerning the
Book you have put out in defence of Believers
Baptism in which you have told the Heads of the
^{subject} ~~the~~ also where it was likely they would be

Printed

But I Recd your letter Since the Merchants meet
ing in our Town and have had no opportunity to
send to you Before now

As to your Books I know not of more than two
of them in our Town.

if you thought fit to send me a number of your
Books I will try to sell them and at a time
that you should appoint if there is no better
way to convey the money to you or the Books

Back that I cannot sell I will convey them
to your Brothers, John Bakus at Norwich

I have a grate mind to see them and my Circum
stances is such as I can not purchas a Number

of them at present. I think that it will be
likely that they may be sold where Mr. Frothing
hams Books are sold, that these are answer to.

Concerning the State of Religion your way which
you wrote to me that a Number were hopefully con
verted in ~~the~~ your parts

This was Good News from a far ~~Country~~ Country
for when I Consider the Lovely Spirits of them
that are Converted and are in the ~~good~~ Possession of the
Spirit of God what unspeakable joy it will be to
joyn that assembly where every one of them shall
have white robes given unto them and they shall
serve God Day and night without any Mixture of Sin
where the Lamb which is on the ~~right~~ of the throne
shall feed them and shall lead them unto living fountains
of waters: and have all tears. wiped away from their

eyes. Dear Brother Pray for us. Amen.

Abraham Doolittle

Mr. Abⁿ. Doolittle
Letter May 30. 1440

For M^r.
Isaac Bakus
Middleborough

From Middletown Mr. Doolittle
May 30 1440. Recd. June 23.
J. B.

Beloved Sir I Recd your favour 28
of instant in which you inform me of the work
of conviction and consolation among you of late & also
that you and your family is well which I am very
glad to hear. I sh^{ld} with my love to you and all Christians ^{with you} friends.
I have nothing very straining to write to you. my
Sons Higbe moves his family up to No. 6
in Moandinoch last winter Brother Mark
is well and his family. my wife is ben very
sick some months and is very weak at pres^{nt}
sent not able to go out of the room.
The rest of my family are well thro the Good
of God -

This day I have Recd a Box of Books sent
from you all that are in the invoice.
I have paid the fr^{ate} ^{with was} one Shilling
I say I gladly Recd them hoping that it may
spread light among Christians

I think I have not sold quite 2 thirds of
them I had before

As to the flower that you sent for I cannot
send it to you at present for I do not think
that there is one bushel of wheat to be sold
in 10 miles from here. for I have heard of
none and I have made a grate inquiry
There will be a prospect of getting some
after Harvest

and if you can send a letter and send how
much flower will answer an hundred
I will endeavour to get some for you when
the people get out their wheat.

I sh^{ld} be glad to hear from you as often as I can.
As to Religion it is very low among us at present.
As to the Books that I talked of having of m.
Fireman I purpose to send for the first opportunity.

Walden May. 29. 1771

Abraham Doctitle

Mr. Abm. Doolittle
Letter May 29. 1771

From Middletown

May 29. 1771

Recd. June

J. Backus.

Blessed Ever

With my Love to you and all inquire
ing Friend. they may acquaint you that I and
~~my~~ mine are well thro' divine Goodness.
But my Quarter High is in ^{low} state of health.
As to religion it does not seem to prevail
among us. But i heard from E. Morfe
Church lately and it was a good time with them
I received your letter Dated April. 12. 1773.
And rejoice to here the work of the Lord in
your ^{Land}. Good News from a far Country
is as Cold water to a thirsty Soul.
And when ~~you~~ i came to this passage in your
letter. What is there in this confused world
worth living for if we do not live to God and
see the good of his Israel!
It lay close to my mind.

i have Recd the Books that you sent me
at this time. and i have sent you one
Barrel of flower Containng. 174. pounds.
Wheat is dear among us i gave off 11.
Bushel i have marked the Barrel with the
marking iron thus A D. to J B.
The vessel that you sent these Books in did
not Call before. He came from Hartford
so that i had not time to see my son High
Concerning the Books that you let him have
These from yours to J^r. Abraham Doolittle
May. 5. 1773

P. S. I sent to Mr. Freeman last fall
that i lented to him 20. Dollars but the Gen.
men did not go but i purposed to send
it the first opportunity
Sir if you have opportunity Let Mr.
Freeman know it

Warrin August 1782
Dear Elder
I arrived at this place which
was within five days from Bridgewater
I met with the deepest disappoint-
ment that ever a mortal did for instead
of finding the People as I expected I
found them praying God and admiring
in praise of grace I found that the Lord was
true of a truth and the People were all
under an ~~eternal~~ ^{eternal} ~~curse~~ ^{curse} for and some
against him and Blessed be God he has
converted a number of persons here of grace
divine though it did not ~~play~~ ^{play} ~~into~~ ^{into}
send his blessing so much into the
Town of Warrin as in ~~Tommynton~~ ^{Tommynton} a
Town joining to it and altho I have five
miles to ride to meeting yet the way is
short There has been a Baptist Church gathered
in that Town ~~there~~ since some time last
February which now consists of seventy eight
members all of which ~~have~~ ^{have} been baptiz-
ed since then and almost all have been
born since a wonderfull work of God

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above matter. I have been thinking of it and will do all in my power to meet the views of the Board in this regard. I have been thinking of it and will do all in my power to meet the views of the Board in this regard. I have been thinking of it and will do all in my power to meet the views of the Board in this regard.

Oct. 1.

Soul, pray tell it for me, con-

Warren 7. October 1801

Dear Elder

I think it my duty at all
opportunities to Communicate
to your happiness and I think
there is nothing will give you
more satisfaction then to hear of
sinners being brought to the
knowledge of the truth and I think
we have the greatest reason to bless
god for his great and wonderfull
goodness to us in this place that he
is still ~~carrying~~ carrying on A glorious
work in this Town Though perhaps
you would think but little of so
small A reformation as there is here
but we think every room of mercy
from god to be A great blessing we
find that the Lord is able to Carre
on his one work in his one way and
and in his one time against the stro-
ngest opposition for we have A con-
siderable share of that
If you remember when I saw you I told
you we had A Church organized in this

the paper lines and almost all have been
... ..

March 7, 1861

My dear Ellen

I think it very likely that all

of your family are in the same

to your happiness and I think

there is nothing will give you

more satisfaction than to know of

your being brought to the

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

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... ..

... ..

... ..

Soul, may tell it for me. especially to my
Town on the second day of August 1800
Consisting of 13 members and now I
trust the Lord has added to it till
we are forty and a number more
we trust will soon be brought for-
ward last Sabbath Day one married
woman and one young Woman were
Baptized My Daughter Abigail was
Baptized the 6th of September. A girl
of seventeen years old she is intirely
turned away from the vanities of the
world and has chose religion for her
portion You will say that grace
knows no difference but when I con-
sider that I have reason to think
that the Lord has taken one of my
Children into his Army and blessed
them it many times fills my Soul
with thankfulness to that God who
is all my salvation and all my
desire And may the Lord bless you
and keep you in your lonely situation
and in your advanced years by gra-
nting you the inviveing and com-
forting influences of his holy and
blessed Spirit Amen

Daniel Dunbar

Daniel Barker
Oct. 7. 1801.

Answered

Oct. 20. 1801.

Recd Oct. 18
New. 2. D. 3. 7. 10

Your Obedt^s
Middletorough

Beloved Bp.

New-falem Aug. 18. 1784

With pleasure I inform you that
the morning after I recd your very kind letter, the
Lord was pleased to turn my captivity as the streams
of the South. My Song, is, the Lord liveth that
brought me again from the North country, and
blessed be his name. I was in great heaviness,
and I heard those sweet words: Return, return
O Shulamite &c. which brought such light & love
into my soul as filled me with joy & peace
believing, and admirations of free grace, and self
correction, to &c. such a backslider brought home
I treated with such kind embraces. I have dedica-
ted myself to God in Gospel bapt. and put myself
under the watch & care of N-falem Chh, and have
enjoyed much peace & comfort of soul since. I
have many outward trials, but I am enabled to
bear my cross & find honey at the end of the rod.
I am in great haste, I desire your prayers that I
may stand fast & endure to the end. could I come
to Middleborough, my cry should be, come all ye
that fear God & I'll tell you what he hath done for
my soul, pray tell it for me, especially to my old
companions. Farewell. yours in J. Lord.

Nathan Eaton.

careful to keep a

in hand for in my

Post. I must inform you that a little before
I bapt. Bro. Baton, the Widow Mary Smith
formerly of your town, requested to be bapt.
by immersion. She was in the 74th year of
her age, & born of God 41. years ago in Mass.
and has been a follower of our sect ever since
I know her, but because she got her self sprin.
in adult years could not renounce it, but
the last fall the Lord broke in with such
light she could not stand there any longer
Her cup run over at the water.

S. Bigelow

J. B.

24 Aug. 29.

Aug. 18. 1784.

Nathan Cohen.

wisdom belonging the 11 1789 from a true regard
 your self and family take this opportunity to right
 we having these will find you all together
 I leave me through the goodness of God who
 that death has taken one of your family and
 you have heard the same of mine God has ben-
 efitting us and I hope not in vain who want to hear
 that you faint under his reukes or not who want
 our souls of the ~~to~~ excercises of your minds and
 rather you may with out hope or no who find this
 of trouble of disappointment yet who find God is true
 has been it to my children transgressing my law I
 ridged severe transgressions with a rod and
 in iniquities with stripes but my loving kind-
 ness will not ~~with~~ rather take from them nor
 use my fatherly ness to bail so no more but
 remain young in Christ who trust remember
 love to your family Silvanus Euton Delonah
 Euton

Silvanus Eaton
Feb. 11. 1789.

Mr

of

John Backus

at

Windsor

Middleborough April 4th 1791

Reverend Sir

after Due Regard. these lines may inform, that
I Susanah Eaton of said Middleboro having for
a long time ben in a low languishing Condition
so that my whole Substance is not Sufficient to
Pay my Doct. & my Nursing so that my Condition is
Extremely Distressing as I am not able to do but little
as yet towards my Support (therefore Sir) I would
Dare to Lay this my Case before your Church & Congregation
to see if they can find a freedom to help me in some
manner to Extricate me out of my Distress by way
of Contribution as my Doct. is willing to take any
sort of Doctor, or any sort of Pay these from yours &c
to the Reverend Mr. Isaac Backus Susanah Eaton

Silvanus Estor
Feb. 11. 1789.

Mr
Jesse Backus
at
Middleborough

Supa. Estor request
Read April 14. 1791.
And with a
contribution for her
on May 1. 1791.

Harwich Jan. 8. 1796,

A true account of the proceedings, as follows.

On the 8th day of January the collector of the South parish of Harwich came to my house and seized a cow & carried out of my inclosure and delivered it to the aid without coming into my house. My wife came out and told him, that if he would stop she would send for me and I would not pay him. She would. But he would not stop, and so rode off and left the cow with the aid, and the aid let the cow go; and on the 9th day my wife went to Mr. Nathan Underwood, and paid up the tax, the sum four dollars and fifty cents, and took a receipt, and they promised before evidence that they would proceed no further and drop the action. On the 13th day they came and seized my wife and two daughters for coming out pleading for the cow, which they styled insult or robbery, and one of my daughters was not there when the cow was seized. They carried my wife and daughters before a single justice and tried them; the women pleaded not guilty, but they would not hear them at all, but condemned them by a law to pay the sum of seven dollars, not allowing them no person to speak for them. So I must conclude, by declaring this to be the truth and nothing else but the truth, and can produce substantial evidence that will give out to the same. And desiring the best advice and counsel from the Honorable Committee of the Association of the Baptists; this from your most obedient and humble servant.

Judah Eldridge.

Copied from the original,

Feb. 5. 1796.

J. Backus

Ensign Eldridge was compelled to go as aid in taking said cow, and many of these distresses were made in the same way, by compelling the Baptists to assist therein, and one of them aided as far as Yarmouth, when the man who was seized paid the tax, and was released, and then the collector seized the Baptist who had been aid before.

Section

Of the bank of the
Mormon river in the
vicinity of the
in Bridgeway

Judas M. B. B. B.
case 1496.

Harwich February the 3rd of 1797
Mr Isaac Backus Rec^d Sir my humble
request after my love and respect to you is
that you would right me your Principles
sentimentally in as clear a manner as you can
that it may be understood by a weak mind
With the platform of the Baptist Church
and Societies and declare that to be your
Principles and platform by putting your name
to the same and your Principles to be a Baptist
Principles this I desire may be done that.

Those that are in healthy Baptists may
acknowledge your principles to be their principles
by signing their name to the same
and likewise that many of our Societies may
know the better how they stand it may
be a leading cause in sum measure for our
purvey from sum of our Difficulties as we remain

Still in great want of sum skillful hand for
advice for they continued in taking of our and
collecting our money with out our consent with
rears very evil that we cannot have our
Religious Liberties allowed our although it is our Rights
allowed by the constitution yet charity is wanting
among our all And Sir please to grant your

Humble servant the above request and send it
to the nearest our living house that we may
have it by the first of march this from you

Respectful servant William Eldredge

To the
Office
of the
Middleborough
at

John P. Bridge

Dec. 3. 1797.
Dec. 26. 1798.

9. 18.

Answered
Dec. 28.
9. 23.

By the opportunity of righting to you
in forming you of our health thanks be to
Richmond A 18 ————— 1799.

Dear Brother I Emboss this opportunity of righting
to you informing you of my health at present and in
hopes these few lines will find you and yours the
same I hope to hear from you when opportunity
offers and to hear of a growth of Religion amongst your
Church and the Labouring Churches but am sorrowful to
inform you of the Colic of the professors amongst us
Dear Brother pray for us that the Lord would
More More shine upon us and send us a glorious
shower of Divine Grace upon us that we may
grow up as Calves of the stall May the God of peace
Bless you and yours These from your Loving Brother
in the town

Thomas Elliott

Shenas & Co.
No. 18. 1799
Recd. July 3.
9. 13.

Answered July 4. 1799.

Elder Isaac Backus

in

The Town of Middlebury

Genl Massachusetts
willm Brame.

Berwick November the 8. 1770

Dear Brother with Due respect to you and yo
these may Inform you that I and mine are well
and a time of General Health and through God
Goodness to us un worthy Creature, are at Peace
among ourselves, but the want of Love to G
and man we find no remarkable Influence of
Special Grace newly wrought. I received a letter from
you Dated August 10. 1770 but finding no direction
where to send for our Book, we have not sent for
them we have collected the money and should be
glad of a few lines from you where to send for them
having but a few minutes to write today. I
Close with my Love to you and yours, and the Church
of God in or under your Care. Give us your Pray
ers for me and mine and the Church in this Place
Gideon Knight send, his respects to you and yo
the People in General. I am, Dear Sir, Great
to See you at Berwick So no more at Present
I remain Your friend and Brother in Christ

Joshua Emery

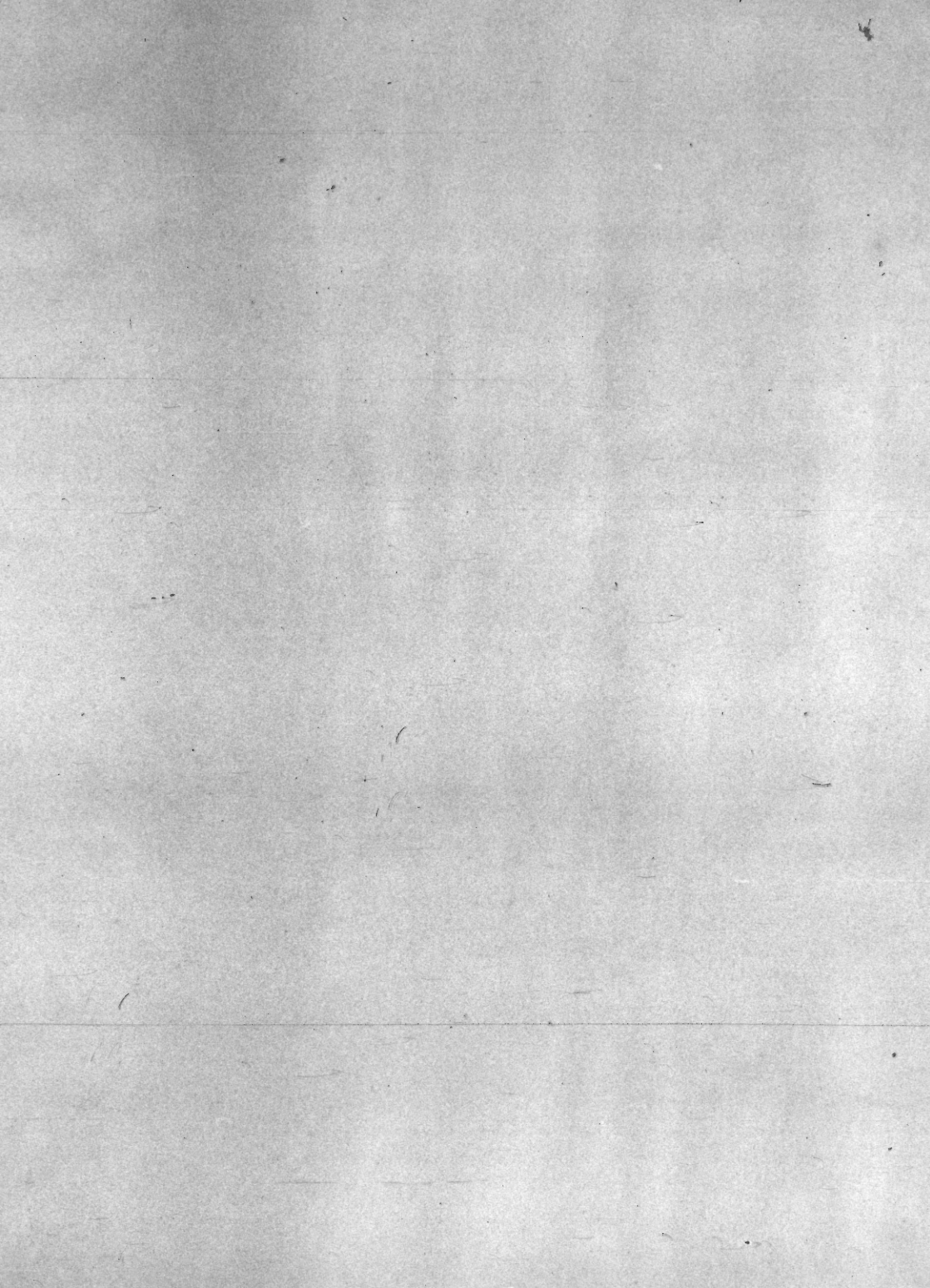
Thos. Eliot

May 26. 1795.

Recd Aug 18

J. B.





Boston, 2d Month 15th Day 1806.

My Dear aged Mother in the Dear Redeemer
I just scrawl you a few lines and am glad
to hear from you, & from that part of
Zion where you labour in love. I am
young & thou art old - I feel not ashamed
to acquaint thee, my dear friend, that I have
had to take up the cross often, & not go round it
as many do, in order to save a good name
or prevent their being called singular or an
odd person - bearing in mind the saying
our Master, "what is highly esteemed among
men is abomination in the sight of God." I
sometimes tremble for Professors of Religion in our
day - when I think how high they are in general
in the esteem of an ungodly world - I feel
streped, Brother Backus, for many of my
people among me. - I am often pained
at my heart, & at times ready to cry out -
My bowels, my bowels, - O my Mother, I never
expect to see thee any more in the flesh, but I
beseech thee to be faithful to the Lord the
few days thou art permitted to live here below.
As an undershepherd, do not suffer sin to lie on
a brother or Sister - reprove in love - yet be thou
faithful - to perform the discipline of the Church
Christ. - Altho' O my brother what shall
I say to thee respecting a brother or sister's
suffering in judgment while they live a humble
life before God? - Shall I advise thee to be sure
root them out of the Church as heretics.
No. I cannot, but admonish them in love.
I do not let the more forward brethren
crowd against these feeble^{ones} who, perhaps
are as sincere in renouncing the doc-
trines of men, as they formerly were
in retaining them. - I have had
love trials on this account.

I hope thou wilt receive this Epistle in love - if for from
no other spirit do I write - as for party names, the sooner
they are dropt the better, for they have ^{created} jars, discord
& various vain janglings among men - call me nei-
ther a Calvinist or Freewiller - but if ye have judged
me faithful to be so called, call me an unprofitable
servant of the Lord Jesus. - Why are we not satisfied
with as much honour as our Master conferred on
his ministers, when he sent them forth - James
the servant of God - he that would be chief, let him
be servant of all - the servant is not greater than
his Master - well done good & faithful servant - took
on him the form of a servant - & many other places
which teach us very different from the teachings of
men! - O when shall the time come when the
servants of the Lord will cease going after, & re-
ceiving that honour which comes from the
world, & which is so directly opposite to the
holy scriptures - The world is fond of being called
Rabbi - & having their pride flattered - the world
is fond of being well spoken of by all men -
look at Professors of Religion & of those who are
called Watchmen of Zion! Oh what a sight!
they in general love to be flattered with
the title of Reverend - Divine - love
greetings in the markets instead of stand-
ing there to preach Christ - which if
such an thing was to come to pass in these
days, I fancy their good names would soon
go for it - Do not mistake me & think I
am for driving our ministers from their
houses of worship to go to a more unwelcome
place in our markets - I may be right
if I should think the Apostles had nowhere
else a better place to preach in than the
markets & they must either hold their peace
or lift up their voice as their Master bid
them - Would our ministers were
but faithful in their pulpits - but
Alas! conformity to a man-pleasing worship, pride
& popularity prevails too much!

2. Samuel Jones, 97 = 1773
The Minutes of the Association give a detail of
3 members being excluded from the 1st Baptist Church
in Boston the last year, & what is painful to relate
I more in the 2d Baptist Church. If I had not
been one of the victims of the displeasure of the
1st Church where Elder Stillman administers,
I could inform you for a certainty, that
(not to say any thing more of the spirit than to
inform you one of the excluded members
from Elder Stillman's has since ^{been} made a
promulgator of the Gospel not by human
wisdom or approbation, — But Elder
Baldwin has cut off some of the most
living Christians he had with them, the
reason why or wherefore different stories
will undoubtedly be circulated. It has
been a trying time ^{year} here with brethren. Elder
Baldwin ~~is~~ ^{is} afraid to lose the
esteem which many rich ungodly sinners hold
him in. He does certainly appear to me to be
an altered man from what he was when he
first came to Boston — disputes in preaching
about what is much controverted & doubted.
Marking those brethren who hold not with
him in his creed I believe has done but little
good. But since both of the Baptist churches
have proceeded so far as to extirpate or root
out members from among them on sen-
timental disputes, I am extremely sorry to
learn that my old friend Elder Backus has
consented to excommunicate a member from
the branch of Zion in Middleboro, for fear so
of them will be entitled to that sacred prop.
"Blessed are ye when men shall separate
from their company" — Farewell
Henry Munroe

Nov. 4. 1806.
K. Nov. 19. —
8. 23.

Mr. Jacobus
M. L. L. L.

me
me
nig
all

affectionate my respects to

affectionately & ever. Affair my love to you informing you
that I & mine are in health & it is so in general
this town Bro Blosson & his wife this day came from
rutch & informs that our friends are there & that
seen Edw & Hannah Elos Goath were Baptised

Amerson last week Bro Blossons wife is Restored

to chases church by A Reformation in yr chh
which is this that the chh going clear from members
that were not Captised by Amerson have promised

to Bud with such any more the widow Latham

these members Died last may Bro clarks wife the

two of these members has withdrawn by Reason of

Devotion that has joining & continuing in yr chh

Bro Clark Remains as one of the Considered last

sap he sometimes Drinks hard & then yeads to

delish josting & other Dvorting Exercises & some

times Amagining that all the Christians Dispire &

at him of & then falling into Disparings of

mind the spiritual Exercises of the Christians

are & have are much as they were some

times traveling when the sun shines & sometime

& cloudy Day & it seems to me that we are

ed to Rejoice with trembling yours in Christ

Adding your prayers for us all John Evers

John Green
letter July 5
1762.

11/1 10
Elder Backis
M. D. L. G. v. y

From Barnstable
July 5. 1762

Recd. Aug. 3.
L. B.

I am pleased here last Lord's Day
to assemble March 4th 1791. I have my respects to you
hoping through the goodness of God you & yours are in health
as we are at this present having an opportunity I desire to
inform you of some of our past & present circumstances
some time ago our ministers called a Council & they was Re-
solved to be Censors & Advisors in A Dispute that Arose between the
minister & the chh the minister Dr. L. D. that his Principle
was that this chh under those present circumstances was under
obligation from ~~their~~ scripture to support him & his family from
him having any occasion to Run into Debt under his
present circumstances but this chh disputed this Principle
as being the mind & will of Christ but the Council Re-
solved the chh for not coming in with the ministers Principle &
Censured him not to Commune with the chh until they
came in with that Principle & they returned home
after sundry private labours for Reconciliation & it did
not prevail the chh was ~~long~~ longly called & met together
the chh laboured as follows

1st our Principle is that ministers should live of the gospel
1st of Cor 9 chap 2^d the living of the gospel is by way
of contribution 2 Cor 8 chap 1st & that by an
equality 2 Cor 8-14 meaning every man to give for himself
according to that which he have & not to be bound in comparison
with others but since all our ministers Resolved fellowship
with the chh upon their non-compliance with supporting him
his family from his Running into Debt under our present
circumstances for which withdraw of fellowship we first admonished
him as a brother to Return but he refusing to Receive any
instruction from the chh in this matter or stand in fellowship
with us if approved Duty & we did proceed to admonish &
silence him from preaching the Gospel in the spirit of truth
of the Gospel which we are Ready to make Appear to all that dispute
And should be glad to see you as soon as you shall see Duty to
Come down upon the Cape Pray Read this Letter to Bro
Gibson hands when you have opportunity & tell him our
love is towards him still & yours John Gwyn

To
Isaac Bakus
Minister of
the
Congregational Church
to be left with Mr. Hinds
from Barnstable
Mar. 4. 1758.

John Eivers
Cotter Mar 4. 1758

Rec^d. Apr^l 2.

I Sannlured here last Lords Day
instable May the 23: 1752. Dear & Loving Brother
my Love & Respects to you & your dear Consort I would
you know that I and mine are in comforted health
regent. Blessed be the Lord for it and his goodness towards
us it is a time of health. Round about us but as to Relegon
very & among us but now & then God sends some
things of his grace amongst us in the chh stands much
they did when you was here only jister. Love seems
turned more of from us my Sister has gone worse ever
e you was here and has been into feverish fast since of
teen days & so under all times since and hath been
ch times into the woods three or four days & nights together
remains distracted case at present
her sickness & I was at Nantucket last March and
born the people settled in this way but God was
to open the heart of one Cornelius & heaved us and the
d and this was a great stir this but God was pleased to
k conviction on some whilst other mocked & where
died and the people remain secure in general at present
is pray to the Lord of the harvest that he would send
h Labourers into his harvest & that the Islands might
wait upon him and the sea coast might give
before him. We Received your Letter & were refreshed at
Revival of some you gave us account of whilst we mourned
ie loss of Bro Shepard and the down fall of others you gave
ount of this under great trials in Harwich chh by
an of Bro Chase & some of his flock and some of Bro Nickson
that have come up in this spring of ye date. Giving
it about with a touch and taking water in a basin and
recipelly feet after ye Lords supper is administered
is a great mind to come at your council but mercy called by
life and i cannot ~~not~~ come at present but I desire that
great councilor may be with all and sit at ye head of ye
ch and direct your hearts for his glory
remember my love to ye Pastors and Brethren that may sit
lined with you we should be very glad to see you or any of the
ants of God this way pray for us that the gospel may run
have a free course amongst us pray let us know by a line or
your affairs after ye council how things are settled among you
your privabes concerning Bro Chase in washing & faith
after supper no more at present but i remain your
Dear Loving Brother and servant in ye Gospel of Christ
Nathaniel Ewer June

Nath. Liver
Letter May 25. 1752.

To
Jesse Backus
Living in
Middleborough
These with
Care of D

Middleborough.
May 24. 1752.
This day I recd.
this Letter.
J. Backus

Dear Brothers J. Sullivan Jan^y 7th 1773

I supplied here last Lords Day
 and was informed that there was to be a council
 yesterday whereupon I concluded to stay and I
 now send you some account of their proceedings.
 The Elders, Thomas Green, Marfor, John and Saml^e
 Winsor, and peirges Deligates they had none only
 of Elder morghes Church and one came from
 below, they met at Elder morghes meetinghouse
 kept aside chose Thomas Green, moderator and
 Saml^e Winsor Clerk, went into the pulpit
 and as they were a council of 5 Churches come
 at the request of Elder Barstow to look into
 their Difficultys, no letters were ^{recd} neither to the
 nor from their Churches, they then proceeded to
 read Elder Barstows papers with regard to
 his sentiments, and your result, and inquired if
 there was any person that had any thing further
 to offer, but had no reply, for the Church was not
 informed of their coming nor was their attendance
 desired, they then ajourned or retired till candle
 lighting when there was to be preaching and
 before meeting began in the evening read the
 following result, that Elder Barstows pice upon
 the Death of Christ was sound and agreeable to
 Scripture — Therefore they advised him to
 go on and preach Administring the ordinances
 To all

to them that were with ^{us} or should ^{be} with.
They also advised elder members people and
Bargstons unite. I now leave you to make your
remarks and tell us whether this is order or
confusion, or Rome or only like it
I remain yours in the best of bands

William Swing

11 sample of ...
... in ... for what I see.
I with regard to ...

William Loring's
Letter Jan'y. 1773.

Mr Isaac Backus in

So

To be left at
Mr Philip
Greenings
care in Boston

Middlebrough

Dear Brother }

Shuttsbury Oct: 4th - 1778

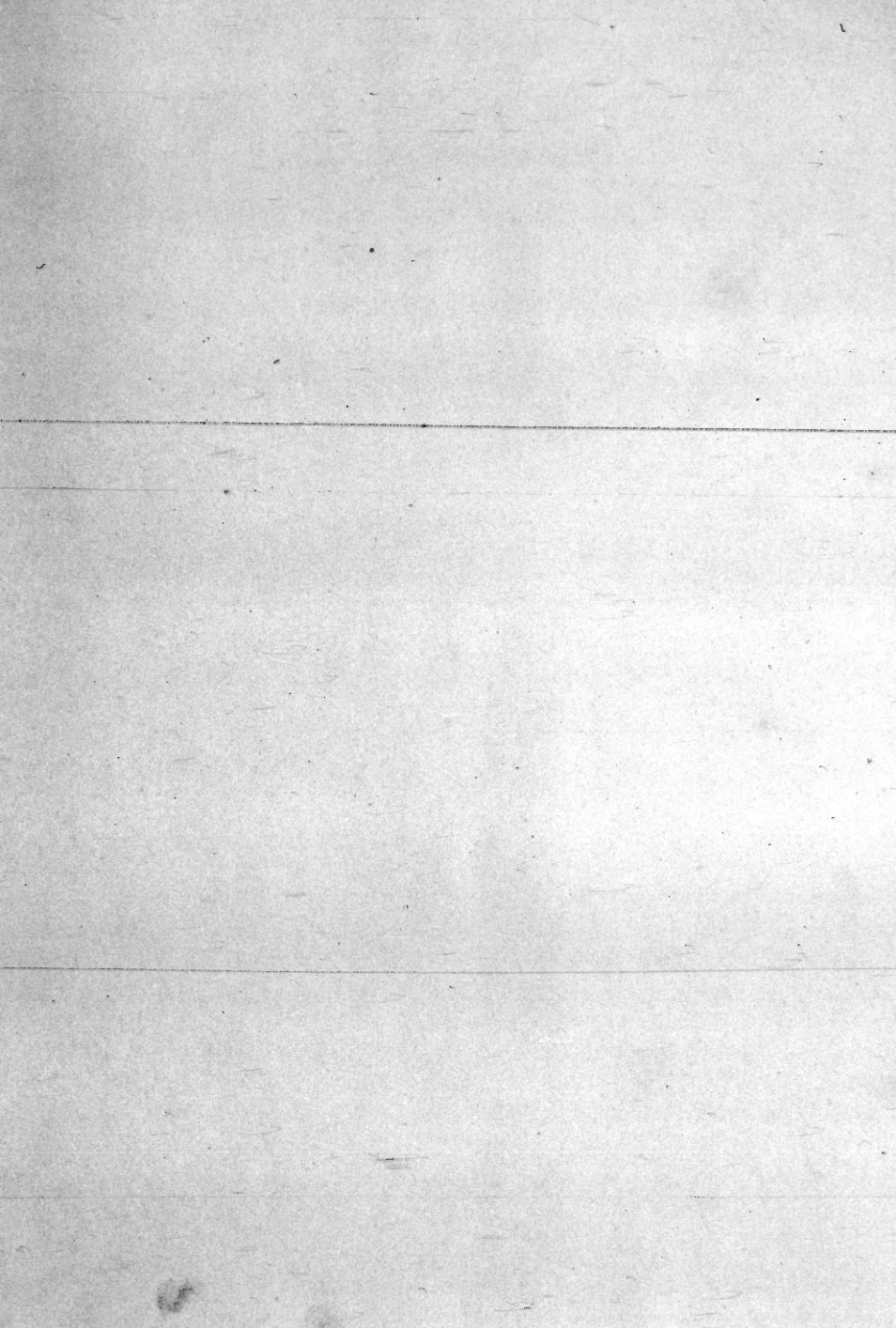
I here send you Doctor Chaneys Books according to your desire I hope they may be of more benefit to you then they have been to me, I wish you could spare me the reading of wallens lectures and send them by the bearer, and if you have gotten the minuits printed and so send them also. I need your prayers and assistance, we are about to form a church and society here, and I think I never was so sensible of the ignorance that this land is in, I might as well have begun in Gambia for what I see.

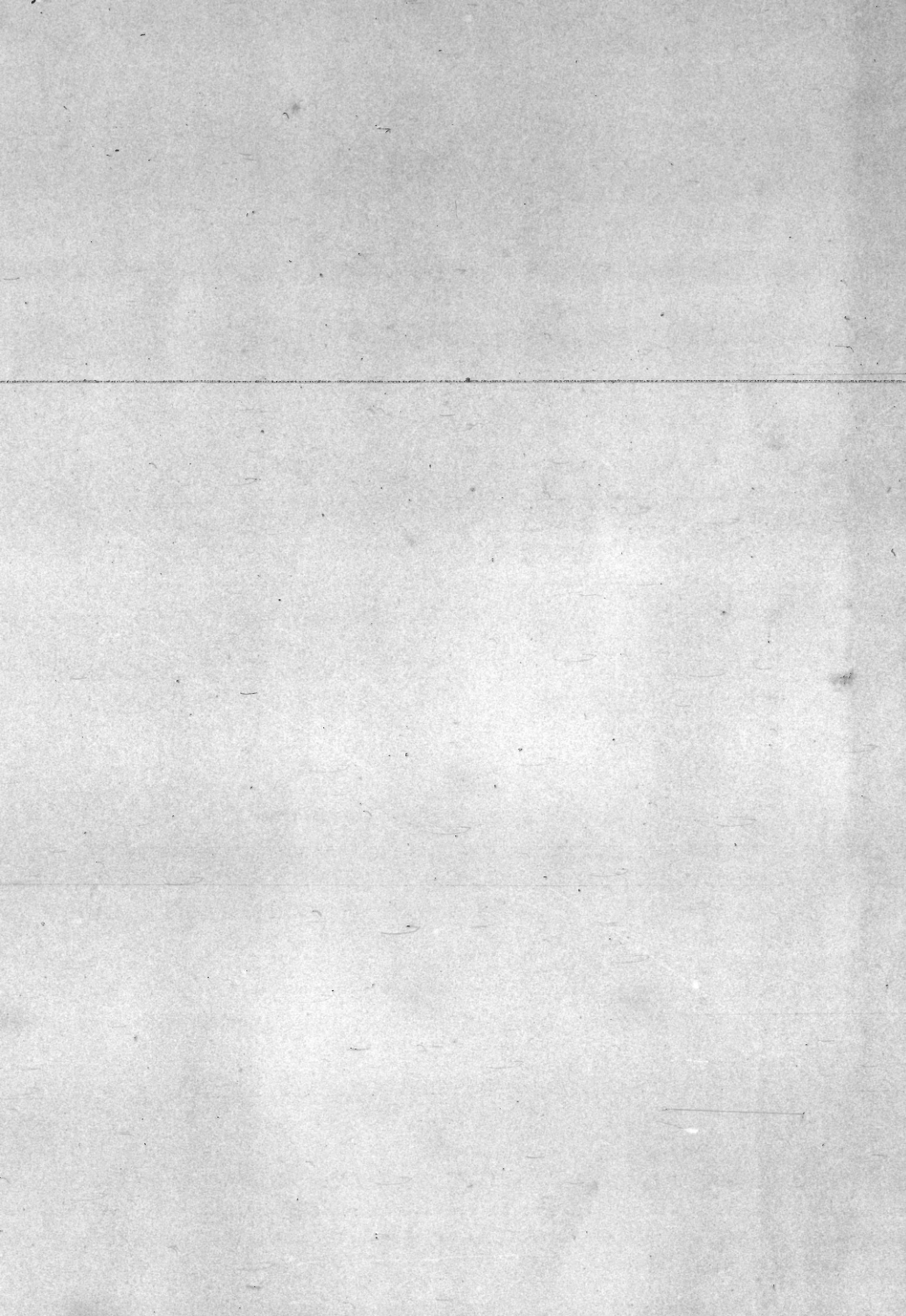
Something very strange has happened with regard to Elder Bigelow last week Elder Jacobs was here to our assistance and on Friday I went with him to visit him, he told me ^{he} had almost ^{got} home, we met and part again said he, but it will not be long when we shall meet no more, we left him between eleven & 12, in the afternoon he sent for all his neighbours called to all of them for near two hours, and he had not but whispered for along time before, he also appointed me to preach his funeral sermon and left a charge to send for me if I was gone home, he also gave me a text, which was begalls ready - after which his feet and hands began to be cold and his eyes to sett &c and after all he came to again and seems more comfortable then he has been for some time. my best respects to all^r Brethren and church and except of the same from your Brother and fellow labourer in the gospel -

William Erving

To Elder Backus

Wm. Ewing's
Letter Oct. 1778.





Jan 16 1789

Sturbridge Jan 15 1789

I am lately returned from a Journey
to the Jerseys & New York as you will see by
the enclosed, and found religion very low in those
parts, but theres a great revival at Enfield and
Somers & a place called Square Pond chiefly
amongst the youth & that it was the case in
all parts. The Books Subscribed for in York
in New Jersey it will be best to send
them to Mr. Gances in New York, those in
New England you may send if you please to my
new church in Somers who is a subscriber
and will be ready to do that business for you.
I wish you prosperity in all your undertakings
in the good of mankind.

I am yours in the Best of Bonds

William Ewing

J. Backus

upon mature consideration of the

Elder Savings Letter
Jan. 13. 1784.

Recd. Feb. 1.
1783.

Newport Rhode Island Sept^r 14th 1737
To the Brethren of the Church of Christ at Milton and Leicester,
all Grace Mercy and Peace be multiplied

Dear Friends

Your Letter to our Church of Augst 7th 18th past Subscribed by our
Friend Benjamin Marsh one of your Selves and directed to me is lately come
to hand, by which we are informed of your Making Choice of Two Elders
viz. Thomas Greene and Benjamins Marsh. and that ye desire our
Assistance in ordination 9th 28th Instant; and having now an opportunity
by Mr. Isaac Milleary of Worcester, an Acquaintance, as he says of Dr.
Greene, was unwilling to let it pass in Silence as if we took no notice at
all of your Letter, and it should seem in the Issue as if we did weaken
your hands too much in respect to Jesus Christ and the Gospel; altho
I have not now time to consult our Church about your affare and therefore
must be content to write you only my one present sentiment. I must beg leave
then to tell you. Ye may not entertain Expectation of My assisting in the
Work ye write about at the time ye have appointed; because tis not likely
I can be present with you then for Several Reasons As. 1. My one private
affaires before, and about the time ye have prefixed, are likely to engage
me very closely. 2. For us to assist so soon upon your Motion in such
a work may seem to be very sudden. 3. It may seem as if ye have not
sufficiently adusted to the Constitution of our Churches, because with us
the Laying on of hands is one of the first Principles of the Doctrine of Christ
According to that of the Apostle Heb. 6. 1. 2. and belongs to all that are
Consecrated, and therefore for us to assist in ordaining Persons who have
not laid that Principle in the Foundation (which we suppose to be the
Case of those Two Persons ye have made Choice of) will be apparently to
break in upon the Constitution of our Churches, and according to this
set too light by that Principle of the Doctrine of Christ. However, if
upon mature Consideration of your State ye shall be willing to let the
ordination fall for the present and shall acquaint us thereof I make
no Question but our Church will be very free I shall pay you a Visit
to strengthen & encourage you. Some time between this and Winter and
will be otherwise willing to assist you in what they can or may. In
the meantime whereunto ye have already attained be pleased to walk
by the same Rule and to mind the same things. I subscribe myself
Self wth Christian Respects presented to you etc

Your Friend and Serv^t in Christ Jesus

Order given to
Sutton Church
Sept. 14. 1734.

To
Mr Benjamin Marsh
at
Sutton
John
Wm Gore

Beloved brother in Christ I take this opportunity
to Light a few Lines to you I'm hoping
they may find you well as they find me
and mine there is the great goodness of
God whose tender mercies are over all his
works and hath bin great to us me
and blessed be his name for he hath
Delivered ^{me} out of Six troubles and in seven
hath he appeared for me and hath brought
me up out of ^{the} horrid Pit and out of the
mirey Clay and hath set my feet upon
a Rock and hath Established my goings
and hath Put a new Song in to my
mouth Even Praise to my God O come
help me to Praise his great name for
his mercy Endureth forever and his truth
to all generations. brother I hope you
dont forget us here in the wilderness for
we are in an enemies Land tho we have
is some who I truly wish well to Zion
but we are Desolate and afflicted but
God hath Promised to help the Destitute
and afflicted People - these words have bin
comfortable to me when sorrows compass
me about, O thou afflicted tower with
Tremors

It is Pleas to write to us and a thank
you might come up hear once more
and impart some spirituall gift to as
for we long to see your face in the flesh
Ever hear it was hear last agust and
was wonderfully like it, but I did not
know him, but a great desire to go but
could not for the time I was in Sepulchre
and so you if it were his will but the
will of the Lord be done no more at present

But I remane your
most uncerthy in
Christ
Elizabeth
forbesworth

Elizabeth forbesworth
Wolbach agest 1798

and with many other words hath he comforted
me some times & suffer his terrors & so I am
all most distracted which makes me cry out all
thy fellows are gone over me yam Like a
drunken man and Like a man whom wine hath
over come, but this is my cry O Lord Be-
re me not in thy wrath neither chasten me in
thy hot Dis Pleasure for thine arrows stick
fast in me and thine hand Presseth me sore.
and to say is my complaint bitter &c —
I am gone Like a shadow that Declineth now
after sun I cast Down and a gain I am lift
up and can say with the Psalmist, O how
Love I thy Law it is my meditation Day
and night and one thing have I asked of
the Lord that will I seek after that I may
 dwell forever in the house of the Lord for I
had rather be a Door keeper in the house of my
God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness
I have given you a short account
and would calling of God with me a poor creature
that I may earnestly beg your Prayers for me
of God that he will cut to the end and for the Red-
Let your crys go up to the wilderness of
Remember that we are destitute of the
Privileges that you enjoy and that are needfull
for our growth in grace I know not where to end
but must close off with my hearty Love to you and
yours

Letter to Sharps
Letter Aug. 9. 1943.

Mr

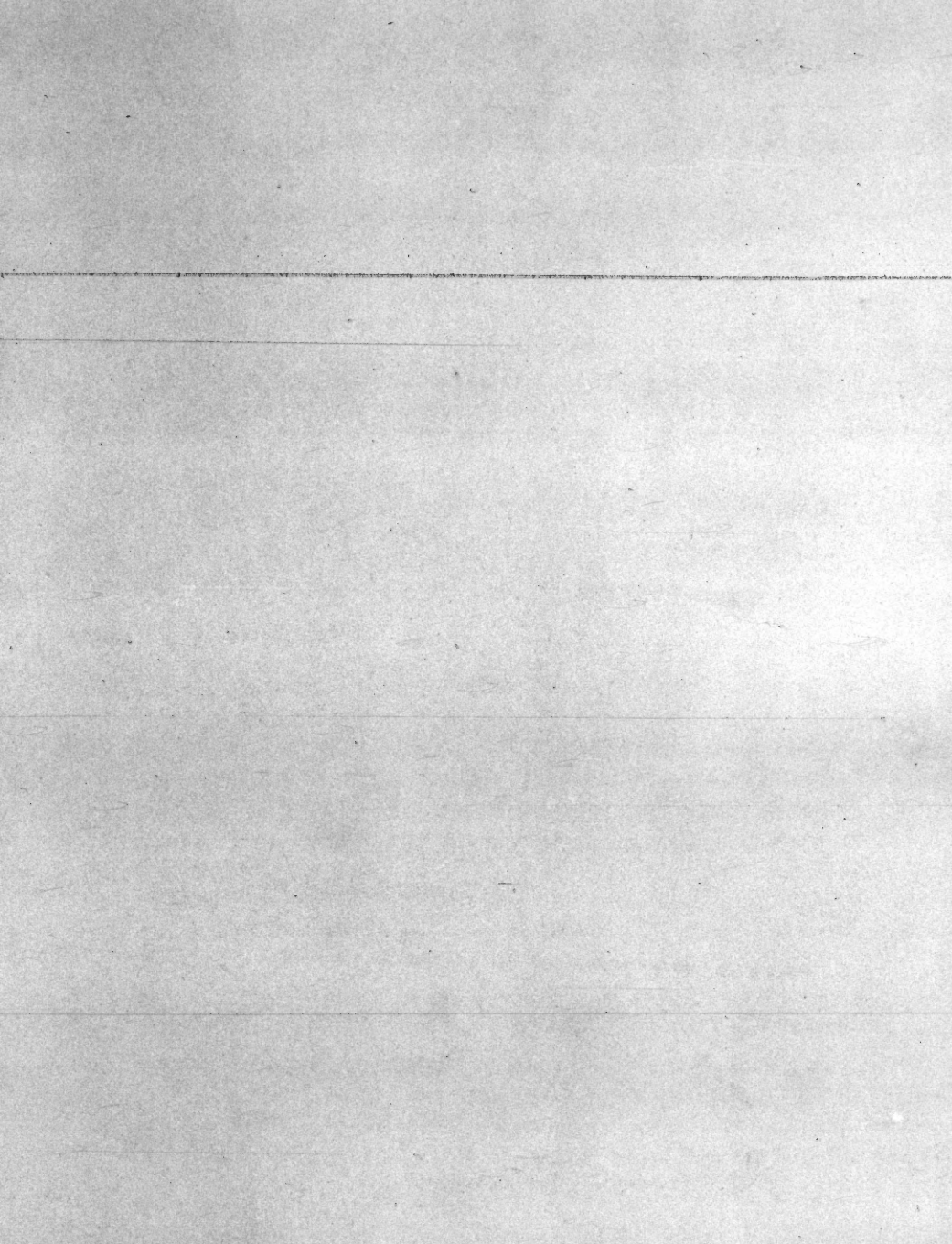
256

Have looked a number in

Midland

in for favor of Mr. Strong

Wife



Born in Bridgewater, my parents not long
after removed to Greenwich, from whence on the

Very Dear Sir.

This short Epistle ~~brings~~ comes with my sincere Love
& regard hoping this divine ^{goodness} will find you & Family in
Good Health & Soul prosperity.

I am authorised by the desire of My Brethren hereby
earnestly to request that you, if possible ^{to} favour us with
a visit ~~from~~ as soon as may ^{be}, if not sooner we should
very glad that you would come this way if you shall attend
At the Association that we may be somewhat refresh-
ed by your spiritual instructions God willing; Also the
peculiar circumstances of Our Chh. Affairs would render your
Advice very acceptable; the same at this time might
possibly be a means of extracting us & as there are differ-
ent aspects & I think more favourable at present, a
particular detail of which I think not the proper subject of
this Epistle. times fail to write, tho' my Heart abounds
with matter which would make a personal interview on
with you extremely agreeable. ~~I am~~

May the Great Head of the Chh. ~~ever~~ crown
your labours with great success & carry on his glorious
work conspicuously with uncontrollable power! which
the prayer of your very humble servant.

Worship Aug. 22. 1780

Asaph Pritchard.

P.S. If you can go this way to the Association, it might be, we
should be glad of notice — I wish if possible accompany you
altho' if you ^{shall} pass this way. 24! 7. —

Oliver Isaac Bauhus.

Health might be restored & directed to the Lord

Recd. Aug. 24.

2/3.

Aug. 22. 1780.

D. Fletcher's letter.

Middlebury

Dear Sir

Yr. Servt.

Paris August 29 1802

Sir I received your letter dated 19 day of
April last for which I hartily thank
you for, it regoyst me to hear that you
had recovered your health so far I hope
it may still continy. I and famaly are
well at present though we have been sick
I also regoyed to hear that there was any
among you that are willing to comforward
and own the cause of their redeemer
althow I have cause to lament my own
coldness & stupidity. Mr Hooper continus
to be faithfull in his work althow it is a
stupid time in general but we have something
new of late next saturday Nathaniel Pratt's
wife is to be baptised in the brook that runs
through my land her father Mr Abner Shaw
Died the 17 day of June last Dea: John Willis
Barid Duttes last week my love to you and
famaly and all in quireing frind,
I shall conclude with beging your prayers
for me and mine & subscribe my self
your nincear frind and brother.

Daniel Fobes

Do
Daniel Foster,
Aug. 29. 1803.
Rec. Sept 6.
8. 13.

Little Riverant

Mr Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Answered Oct. 8.
Again Jan. 20. 1804.

Attention & Charity of this Christian
Society are humbly requested in favour of a young
man under circumstances of peculiar Distress.
Born in Bridgewater, my parents not long
after removed to Greenwich, from whence on the
year 1777 my father was called away upon an alarm
to New-York, where in the service of his Country he lost
his life, & left me an orphan of about four years
old. — with little advantage from School In-
struction, I was trained up to hard Labour & Industry,
by the help of which, under the smiles of Providence
I acquired at the age of 23 considerable property. —
But unfortunately for me in the month of Jan^y.
Last by an over exertion of my strength I met
with an Injury which soon terminated in a Cancer.
a Cancer which was far more distressing to the feelings
of a youth by its situation than by all the pains which
attended it. — But life was too dear & sweet to con-
-ceal my Difficulty & submit to a lingering Death.
I therefore yielded to the prescription of a Physician
in hopes of a Cure. — & in the course of a few months
I underwent at different Times two operations of the
painfull & unparalleled kind, but all to no effect. —
The Cancer again appeared, & with it Dis pain enough
to have broken any Heart but that of a young man eager
for Life. — The question still arose what can be done
The advice of a Jury of ^{Physicians} ~~Physicians~~ was taken who dis-
-agreed in opinion.
I then made application to Doctor Warren of Boston
where in the month of Sept^r. Last^t was carried &
endured a nother operation of the knife. — an ope-
-ration which others can describe but did not feel. —
God be thanked I am yet a live & have since been able to
bear a nother operation tho less severe than the
former but tho I Live it is still a doubt whither I
shall ever again be able to Labour

Added

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.17 \\ 3 \overline{) 0.51} \\ \underline{3} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

Isaac Backus.

Muddelborow

Such have been & still are my expences that all I
possess in the world will perhaps scarcely pay them.
Life & health, even with all my afflictions,
blessings that I do not deserve. —
yet still I cannot but feel for my self for my poor
wife & Infant Child. — my Friends & Relations
are kind & generous to me but they have children
which are nearer to them. what then can I do. —
I will trust in the mercy of God & beg the charity
& compassion of men. for I have little else to depend
upon. Such in short are my present unhappy circum-
stances under which if any should feel willing
to afford me some relief they will greatly oblige
oblige a young man who hath seen affliction by the high
hand of God. and who will as in duty bound ever pray
& be thankfull. —
Josiah Fobes

As so many of the above facts in
the above statement are known
by so many persons that a more
explicit statement was thought
unnecessary.

Boston October 9th 1796

Refial Stokes
request. 1496.

in
at
Linnæa del. 1800

Reverend & Respectable Sir

You have now received a Line in which is em-
barked My best Wishes for the Temporal & Spiritual
Prosperity of you & your whole Family, Thanks for the
Many Exhibitions of Kindness to your real, tho
Unworthy Friend. It moreover informs You that
My Health thro^u Infinite & Undeferred Mercy & good-
ness of God, is Somewhat Improved Since Last I
Saw you — Oh! that Correspondent Thankfulness &
Gratitude might be Legible in ^{my} present & future
Life, that an Affecting, Impressive Sense of such
Rich Mercy, may beam forth in all my Conduct
& Live in every Action — You See I write
In the Supplicatory Dialect — & well I may, for
every Day Experience tells me, that the Faculties of
My Soul, as well as the Members & Organs of My Body
are Enervated, are Vitiated are defiled — that I can do
Nothing of my self — that all my Sufficiency is & must
be In God — from him Therefore, in the Way of Prayer
Let me seek it, Requesting of you Dear Sir a Memorial
In your Prayers at the Throne of Grace — that my
Health might be Restored & Devoted to the Service
of God — to the Interest of our Dear & Divine Redeemer
In the World — That I may be Made a Partaker
of that Compleat Righteousness which was wrought

Q: What Danger attend, & what the Impropriety of, M^r Harvey's
Dissertation, viz^t = "knowing little of comfort by sanctification, is like
building the dome of a Cathedral on the stock of a whip?"
A Very Learned Person answers it = "on Faith, his Definition of the
Other Subject, tending to Edification" —

Answer upon ——— Man is a Probationer for Immortal Joy
Whether, & in what sense True = May I expect to hear from
You by a line?

A I shall wait for an opportunity of conveying —
to know & be assuredly ———

11 January 1764

Wrought out & brought in by the Passive & Active
Obedience & Satisfaction of The blessed ^{Word} of God & is of-
fered to me to all & every the greatest Sinner — That I
Might see my Need, & live in the Daily Conviction of my
extreme Want of Such a Garment Such a protection Such
An Impregnable Fortification, as Christ ~~Righteous~~ Righteous-
ness is — but whither Am I Carried — ^{to return}
A Piece of News I have — That I rejoice to communicate
& will I doubt Not if You have not before heard it
Impart Joy to Your Heart — make Your Pulse beat
Gratitude & Your Tongue Borne in Praise — In Thank-
fulness to a gracious & Sovereign God — who, I thank
You no longer in Suspense ^{hadst} in the most remarkable
Manner pouring out his Spirit Upon his People in
Mr Buels Parish, at East Hampton in Long Island
Such a particular Account of which in a long Letter wrote
by Mr Buels own Hand I have lately heard — & Such
a Work — I never heard nor read of! You may perhaps have
heard particulars, but if you have not I can send you (perhaps)
The Very Letter — & That it might reach over seas & per-
vade & prevail in & over the whole Earth — That in
particular that it may reach these parts — Prudgewater
Fruit — Your & the Heart of your sincere Friend
Prudgewater June 12th 1764 Your Humble Servant
James Forbes

unopened
New York, Letter,
June 12. 1764.

From 18 + 20 water.
June 10. 1764.
Recd. June 17.
8. 78.

For
The Governor & Co.
of the Province of
Massachusetts
at Middlebury

Reverend Sir

At the Request of my Landlord in conjunction
with My Own I beg to solicit The Favour
of Your exchanging the first Volume of Mr
Harvey's Dialogues for This, which by the Bearer I
have Sent You - I dare say this will Suit You &
my poor Judgment will be Any thing I highly
commend it - full of good wishes for your
mortal But especially for your spiritual Prosper-
ity I Remain in great haste Your Most Obedt
& Humble Servt
Perceval

1764

if the first Volume be not at home
go to let the second supply its place
or other that you can recommend

Ames January 8 1764

Dear Brother and Sister

this is to let you know that we are well
at present through the goodness of God
which we have great reason to be thank-
ful for and I hope these lines will
find you so as for News I have none
to write it is a general time of distress
our Sister Margaret as you hear
and I should be very glad to see you
with us hear for I have come away
from all my friends and never shall
see them without they will take the
trouble to come and see me
remember my love to all our children
and so remain your loving sister
Elizabeth Franklin
Cuzannah Backous

I am to tell you that I have
inclined to give sister Lydia the
book I talk with you about when
I have seen with it

From Mrs. Peter Davis
Feb. 4. 1764

Mr. John B. Davis
The Jew
M. W. B. Davis

From Peter Davis
Feb. 4. 1764

I will thank you for a letter
by the rev

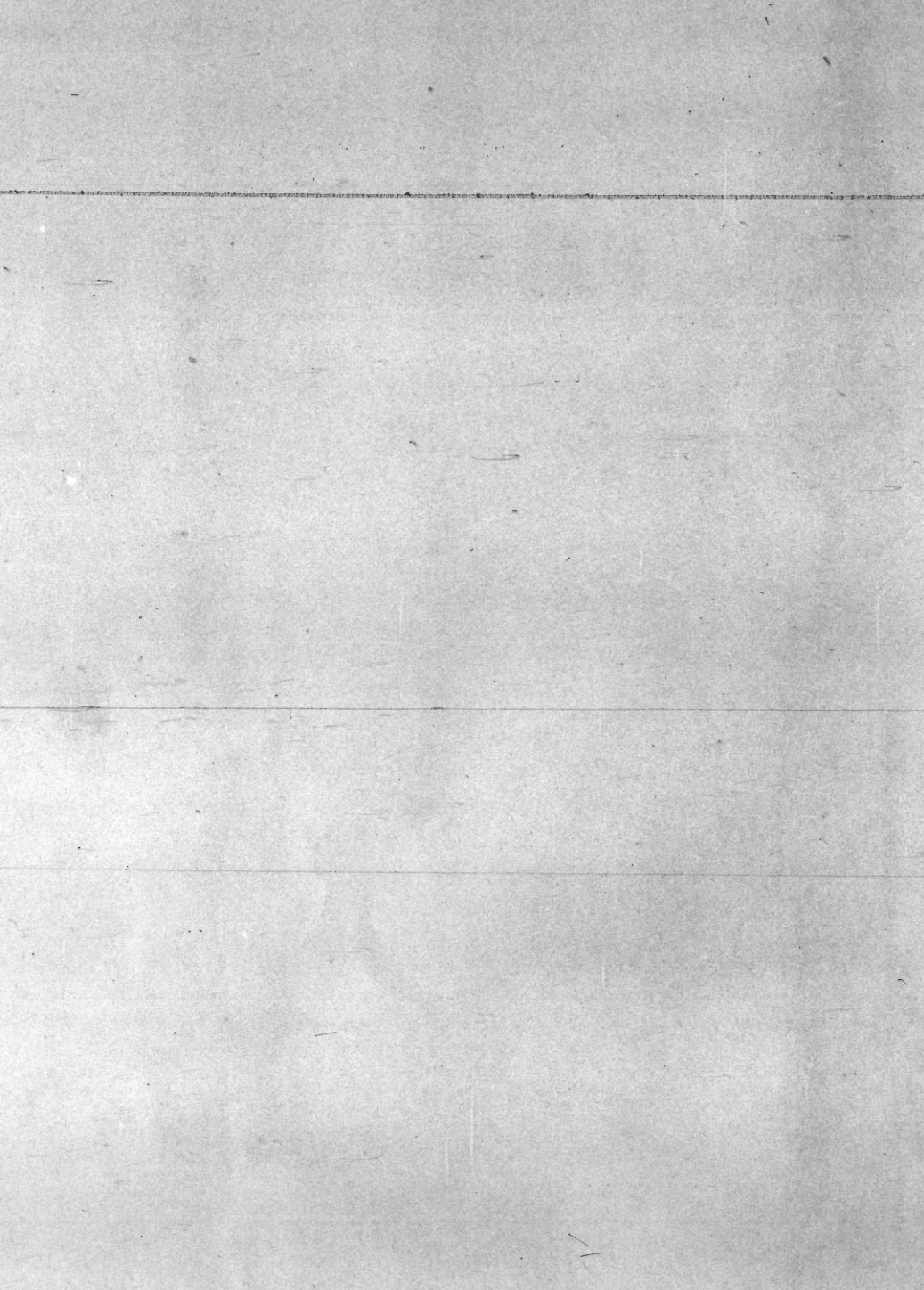
The Rev. Mr.
James M. Davis
M. W. B. Davis

Sister Sarah Davis
Jan. 8. 1764

Ad. Jan. 18.
Any day next day.
J. P. S.

From Peter Davis
June 12. 1764

In former that you have sent for my love and I am
have them without a line from me I am to tell you
Sir that you may go and back there as soon as you
pleases and likewise you may go and back a soon judge
at my brother's funeral.
I Elizabeth Thornstone
her mark



Miss Firman
Ct. May 9. 1763.

To the Rev. Mr. Isaac

Back

with Bare

from Boston
May 9. 1763.

Rec. May 12. J. B.

Middleton July 26. 1769

Dear Br^o In Christ. as I trust.

I Received your Letters & Books yesterday. and am much obliged to you. for your kindness in your presents. & that you are so friendly as to acquaint me with your design of publishing an answer to my Letter &c Dear Br^o Where I in a Circumstance. that you was open to take advice from me. I should advise you to stop where you be. & recall your peace back again otherwise. I am prone to think that you will meddle to y^e hurt of that Cause that you would fair promote. — for in stead of a Retraction of what I have wrote. I look upon my self Bound to Improve all y^e gifts Grace & abilities that kind Heaven has given to me. to detect & stop y^e practice of Renouncing Infant Baptism. & Rebaptizing. Yet it is my choice not to be in debates if it can be avoided & Christs Cause not suffer. But if you see fit to put y^e necessity upon me. (which you ~~have now~~ may now prevent). You ought not to be offended if I should happen to help you to see where you have misused it. In charging me with a startling fact in my Letter that is not true. for if I am forced in to y^e Debate. I shall doubtless y^e Lord willing take some pains to form a true narrative of y^e gleaving delusions. & antinomian notions. that has hapned among y^e Baptists in this day of Reformation. and that from a Beliefe that a Holy & jealous God has suffered it so to be in fulfilling that text pro 20. 26 which you have sadly perverted in your reply to my Letter. as you have other texts to vindicate your own sear. — See that you do not take me wrong. I do not mean to write by way of threatening. no far from it. But as an honest Christian Brother. to let you know what I soberly think to be my duty. for I am bound to Believe by certain facts & fruits brought ^{forth} by many persons in some places that their Renouncing their Infant Baptism & going in to y^e water has don more to hurt y^e pure Cause of Jesus Christ then all y^e opposing carnal world has don in them places and as I have solemnly sworn to y^e mighty God of Jacob to Improve my all In vindicating his Cause in every point opposed. So I shall wate upon his providence to perform my Vow.

You may Remember Br^o. that some years back we stood in Union together in y^e spirit & practice of y^e Gospel. & now y^e Union is brock. through your practice you have droped a Covenant duty of Baptizing your Children. & adopted in y^e name an unscriptural practice of Rebaptizing. very hurtfull to Christs Cause & Intangling to souls. In which practice you go upon your own charges. & will suffer loss when you are weighd in y^e Ballance of y^e Lancelary. — I am sorry at my heart. that those noble persons that God has blessed you with should be Improved to support such a Cause as you are now Intangled in. But y^e kind Lord is able to Deliver you as well as many others. Therefore Br^o See that you Lay open to Light

against

again I am sorry that you got so Zealous. in some of your Remarks
upon my Letter. I am ^{some} to think you was uncomfortable in your mind &
lost Communion with your Lord. & got into Leanness. & barrenness in your
Soul. But it is vain ^{to} Come ought against facts & truth. they
will allways prove too mighty for you. Therefore be advised to drop at
the foot of y^e most High. & Retract your Wrong practice. (as many of your
Brethren in y^e Ministry have allvdy dun) and take y^e Cause of Christ in
the Length & breadth of it. — & may y^e Lord direct you therein —

I have no thought of exercising my self about your Remarks upon my
Letter till yours Come out. — He that Believes doth not make hast. your
Rebaptizing scream will Come to a close in y^e best time &c
By your Requesting me to Come to & see you. I find that you are Ignorant
of my Difficulty that attends me. Which is called y^e Stone in y^e kidneys
which has layed me a bed from riding for many this twelve months it is
doubtfull that I shall never be able to ride much more
you write that you want one of my Last Books. I would gladly send
you one but I have not one by me. yet I have 400 at New haven not
brought home which I want to dispose off I have had no opportunity to
Read your Books. only run over your Remark upon my Letter. But I purpose
to peruse them Carefully.

from your Brother in Christ to serve

Ebenezer Folsom

I I have now heard that y^e man is in town that brought your Books. & not
knowing when I shall get any from New haven. I have Perswaded a neighbour to
let me have hisen. Expecting to get y^e same man to Carry it. that brought
mine but I am sorry it is so badly used. —

Note instead of publishing an
answer to me himself, Mr.
Israel Holly did it for him
whose place I rec^d at 26. 1771
D. Backus.

Ed. F.

Rec^d Oct. 1

69.11

Letter July 26. 1769

Mr. Folsom

The Mr. Smith has preached Several Times in Boston to
 great Acceptance - my Voyage has been Schimental as
 to the Advantage of my Health - of Body & Soul - Surely
 I have experienced Enough More than Enough to Teach me that
 my Life is but a vapour - that this World is an Empty Un-
 satisfactory Thing & that there is Nothing Durable per-
 manent & lasting beneath the Unchangeable God - that
 Nothing Short of a comfortable Scriptural Hope
 of an Interest in Christ - in the Purchase of his all atoning
 Blood & the Merits of his Redemption - any Short of this
 will if ^{that} not already prove, a bubble a Shadow & Nothing &c
 I have No More only the Subscription of myself wth
 I may Expect what you were a sincere Friend & Serv^t
 would promise (soon) Yours &c
 Peter Stokes
 Bridg^{ton} Sept 1st 1764

The
 for
 J. Smith
 at
 Middleborough

From Mrs. Peter Stokes
 Sept. 1. 1764.

Dear Sir Your first Letter
time Since I've, pleas'd, greatly pleas'd with
its Agreeable Contents - particularly that of
the Promissory Kind - Had I not ^{been} Absent
I should not have Delayed The returning You
My Thanks therefor, so long, but my Absence
I hope I will atone - Now at my Father's
House lately return'd from a Voyage Eastward
I write these Lines - Lines which the Unconcern'd
confus'd, yet pregnant with hearty Thanks to You & Your
Mr. Smith the Young Man you mention
I am well acquainted with - I apprehend - for
About 2 Years ago, I happily got Acquainted with
One Smith A Baptist belonging to Jersey
& Educated there - his turn of mind - His Senti-
ments About Religion much pleas'd me, I then
thot him A Young Gentleman of great merit
& Superior in many Respects to Any I ever
saw - he contrary to the Most made an open
Profession of Religion, & propos'd the Glory of God
as the End of his being, & A Merciful should be the
End of his Actions & I hear much
about Mr. Whitefield in Boston - his Sermons & Conver-
sation - which I have not time Now to relate -

Bridg^m Feb^y. 10. 1765

Kind Reverend & D^r

with a Blush in my Face I have now and (with Shame)
I speak I not till now, Taken up my Pen, to transmit
You my Thanks my hearty Thanks for Your kind
profitable Instructive Long Letter to Me; I rec^d it with
great but read it with greater Pleasure, I am Intirely Appre-
hensive of Y^r Sentiments on Mr. Mauley & Acquiesce in Y^r
Other Descantations - Y^r Observation on, & Disapprobation
of Delays renders me Almost Inexcusable in my Delay, My
prostration - Tho if I might be allowed to Make an
Excuse - one would be, Imporeal Debility, of which Mental
Imbecility is a Noer failing (Incomitant) - I now
I have Assumed my Pen I can do but little more than re-
turn Thanks, for my Spirits are so low my Body so dan-
quid That I have neither Disposition nor Capacity to make
A particular Return - Oh! what a Favour, what an Unparal-
lel Blessing is Health, Bodily Health, but more Unparal-
(If I may so say) Infinitely more Desirable is the Blessing of self
Soul Health, I doubt not but You wish me Health, reviving me
& bestowing upon the Beloved Disciples with 20 Quins (in 3rd)
guard of it I mean, for surely I have too Unprosperous
Distempered Soul for all the Rich^d - but blessed be God the
Blood of Christ is an ^{Heavenly} ^{Purifying} Open, Free, Cleansing Fountain
Turbid^d - The Soul's dark Cottage hallows & decayed
" Let's in new light thro Christ's Time has made
This is in some small degree True, of Y^r Friend & H^{ble} Serv^t: J. Jones

As another paper will afford you another line from your well wisher
D.D.

Dear Sister
Feb. 21. 1865.

Pres. Fobes

the strong desire with which I have desired for a long
time, to form a little Acquaintance with Dr. Gill's En-
position, has induced me in this way to solicit the favor
of perusing, or consulting, one of his Volumes, a limited
time. The Idea I obtained of him, as a writer, from
reading y^r Volume of his Body of Divinity which you
was so kind as to lend me in time past, greatly in-
creases my Desire to hear him Talk, upon y^r Sacred Text.
He appears, To show an uncommon regard for Scripture.
To have made it y^r Subject of his ^{constant} Study & Close attention,
requiring regard to which, shoud strongly mark all hu-
man Conceptions, Influence & Warm our Hearts, Govern
direct our Lives — "To y^r Law & Testimony" be

Th^o You shoud find Abillingsness To Oblige me in
this Request, please To Inform The Bearer, and in Re-
turn promise, you any Book y^t I have or can Command
— also a Tender harmless Conveyance As well as up
to it — shall leave y^e To y^r Choice of y^r Volume, the y^t
first on y^e New Testament, Appears To me, y^t woud best
give me A specimen of y^r whole — I Ask it as a favor
if granted I shall send for it y^t first opportunity
— but in y^r mean time — I am

Resd Serv^t Friend &

Raym^o Jan^y 2^d 1776: W. Sed

Pres. Fobes

quantity of exposure, to face it in my mind, I am

Peres Frobes Coll.
Jan. 2. 1776.

Rev. Mr. Isaac Backus
in Middlebury

For
Had you been better acquainted with
your Informers, & more thoroly Considered that very large
Quantity of Prejudice, (to call it by no worse a Name) That
accompanied the Information - but especially, if, when You
added with Application to me those Words of Solomon, ⁱⁿ Hasten
to the Wounds of a Friend - you had been pleased to have turned
into a few Chapters & read & considered those of y^r same Author
viz - He that is first in his own Cause seemeth just, but his Neighbour
somewhat & searcheth him Out; I say had you done this, you might
have spared yourself as well as me the Trouble of writing; & perhaps
too I might have been freed from the Accusation, of False Reports
behind y^r Back - & of Acting Inconsistent with my professions of
Friendship to You: but as you have ^{justly & truly} Neglected this; In my turn
Ist Now, give Me leave to ask how y^e reconcile y^r late Conduct
to divine Rule - y^e Rule In particular which Solomon evidently points
out to us In y^e above Cited Text - Besides some other things
very Unexpected & Surprising from You; You are pleased to Tell
Me (out of kindness to me, & I need not greater trouble no doubt) that
Unless I make you Satisfaction for what I have injuriously reported
Against You - I may expect your further Attempts ~~to~~ to Obtain
it - What I am to Understand by y^r further Attempts, I do not
know; if y^e suppose the Nature of my Crime such, & y^e Credible
Inform^r as y^e call it to be such, as that I have opened myself to
y^e Law - & y^e mean by further Attempts a ~~process~~ ^{pross} Against me -
You are welcome ^{to} to get y^r Satisfaction this Way: Upon this
Then I will venture to risque y^e whole Cause - here you have
my leave to let y^e Matter Issue - & let Characters stand or fall upon
this point - But lest your Credible Evidence fail you; or y^e
y^e self be mistaken in y^e Nature & Reality of Crime - Instead of
Stopping here - out of Friendship to you a thing is y^e justly due
I have proposed to y^e, & w^{ch} give me leave to add I still propose &

& bear to you notwithstanding all, that has been ^{as I imagine} very partially
not to say cruelly & injuriously, told you, against me & my conduct
towards you - I say with this design, let me tell you my sto-
-ry - When y^r. Book Against Mr. Toph, first
came out, I obtained accidentally - a glance into it; where, unexpectedly
I found a fact w^h I never before heard of, & w^h manifestly tended to y^r.
Disrepute of Mr. Wales = startled at it I immediately enquired into it;
& found, by Evidence w^h I presume that none will suspect, either of pre-
judice or incredibility, I found, That Unknown, to y^r. grief & great
Disadvantage of Mr. Wales, The Woman was, by a Constable, Row of
your Profession, furiously carried to Prison: Mr. Wales disapproved of it
requested it, & one Day in person, offered to crop it out, to w^h she replied
If He wou^d own it Unjustly due, she wou^d accept of it - but as he
cou^d not do this it was not done Then = after a while a Number joined
& set her at Liberty, w^h she very Unwillingly & Unthankfully Received:
That this is y^r. true Account of y^r. Matter, I am informed by a
great Number of serious Credible persons - persons whose piety & Credibi-
lity I can't in y^r. least suspect = Now Ist. without being at y^r. pains
of Comparing y^r. Account with this; or y^r. Evidence y^e have to Support
yours with mine = we need only observe - That y^r. Account tends,
Manifestly to y^r. Dishonor & Odium of y^r. Minister: Mine does not;
Therefore permit me Now to tell you, That as I have a right to
think & say That your Account is not true; Yes Ist. for the Self
same (if neglected), That y^e say it is Very my Evidence; for I suppose
That you no more than I, ^{were} personally knowing to y^r. Fact: so
That if y^e are ^{under these circumstances} please to Open Your Eyes y^e may see that your
Accounts being wrong, ^{under these circumstances} don't either Impire y^r. person Character or Ve-
racity - it will take up too much
Time, to give y^e an Exact & faithful Account of what I have said
relating to this Matter; I must refer it to a private Conversation:
But y^e may depend upon it, That what I have said will look
very different to y^e from w^h has been represented, w^h you hear
y^r. Account in full, by this I don't mean

Any Retraction of what I have said; for I can see no reason
for it, being willing that you sh^d know of what I wth have
~~said~~ at any time repeated — & then judge for yourself =
That the Account you have published is unjust & very much to the injury
of Mr. Wales — as it there stands — for of above Reasons I am
yet constrained to believe — whether of Rules of Christianity, don't oblige
you, to reconcile different Evidences, of Support or Contradict of Fact
or rake it out of y^r Book, is a Question That I leave with you:
But the Matter & Manner of y^r Letter to me, be strictly Agreeable
to be I league with yth How far you are to blame for listening
to persons, ^{who} are prejudiced against me, I am endeavoring perhaps
to render me as odious as possible — & how far you are influenced
by such Reports. I shall not take it upon me to determine
— all that I desire of you, & of same do I desire for myself
viz that we may both, live & act & talk & behave as becomes of
Gospel — That we don't encourage in others, nor savor ourselves
a party, ^{bigoted} Bitter Consonious Spirit —

I am In haste &c. y^r Friend

NB let extreme haste
excuse Inaccuracies —

May^m Feb. 2. 1770

Wm. Stiles

I s^t, I have not taken Notice of what you tell me, in these words, & do
not he have Crost it out? — but he did not do it, therefore to blame;
But how so, if Mr. Wales is blamed for not doing it, certainly it was his
business & a thing that concerned him in particular to do; but that
crossing out Her Names, belong, no more to Mr. Wales or any other
Minister settled as he was, than to any other ^{in a parish} person, is what I will
now take for granted & wth desired ^{to} prove it —

Peter Frobe, Coltr.
Jan. 2. 1776.

Rev. Mr. Isaac Bacchus
in Middleburgh

From Mr. Frobe
Feb. 2. 1770
Dec. 7.
J. B.

Mr. Frobe
Isaac Bacchus
in Middleburgh

Peter Frobe, Coltr.
Feb. 2. 1770.

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Mr. Bachus Sir,

Please to Oblige me with the Loan of the
British Grammar (English) I send it by the
Bearer. The Term which you prefer, for Picture
shall be strictly complied with by I.

Yrs^{me}

J. H. Ser.
For Mr. Baubert's Mother

Wm. Forbes

Respectful Compliments to Mr. Baubert
and Inform him that being trusted to preach
at the Baptist Society in Taunton next Lord's Day I
consented on condition my pulpit should be supplied
In my absence, Mr. Allen the bearer of this, being
I thought it would be proper to request him to apply
to you, wishing it it in agreeable convenient to you
that you would supply me by Mr. Allen be addressed
to Supply in your stead.

Wm. Forbes

Dr. J. A. Stober,
Spec. Aug. 4. 1861.
J. S.

February July 5. 1801,
was our Commencement, &
I could not answer this
request. J. W.

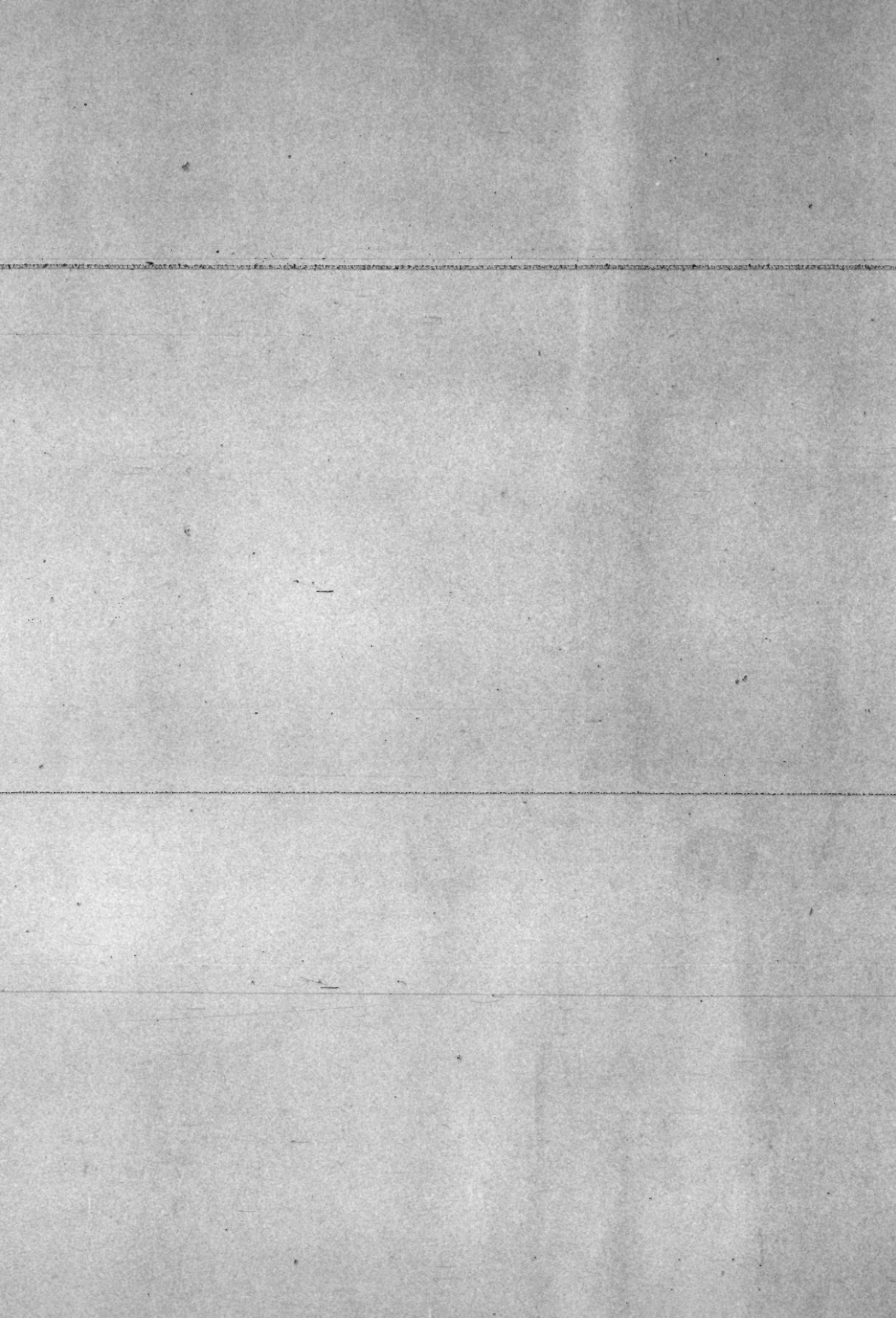
How? Through Purchase

Mutibans?

The
 Dec. 2. 1770
 Dec. 2. 1770
 1770

1845

1780
Recd. Mar. 7
Jesse Strober



Middletown Sept 4 1770

Dear Bro

I sent you a letter last April by a friend with your Enclosures
conveying it to you. But I have had no answer from you.
reason of which. I send these lines. earnestly Requesting of same
your. That you would send me a Copy of your Church Records
of facts. for which you was formally put under censures by of the
also your dealing with two Brethren. that did not Receive you. when you re-
side from your censures. pray send me what their fault was. I have had a
positive on one side of y^e Cases & want to know your side of y^e Case.
that I may know whether they agree or not. I earnestly desire that you
grant me my Reasonable Request. if you do not. you will abridge me to
to y^e Scriptures to form a Judgment of you. as in John 9.20. But I would
in otherwise. and now give you an opportunity to answer my Request.
of Bearer of this letter. who engages to convey this. as soon as she gets
to his father. where I desire you would send your Letter for me.
whose name is William Hudson of Bridgewater. the bearer of this
letter is one of my Neighbours. who intends a visit to her friends at
Bridgewater. by whom you may safely send
your Book. have got up among us. your friends. which I suppose you
write of is very faithfull. in trying to make sale of them. &c
I shall likely make you ashamed of your friends. when I come to an-
swer for my self — I have not had any time as yet to make any
Reply to your peace. ~~which~~ But. y^e first Leisure opportunity I shall
endeavour to attend to some short Remarks upon it
as near as present. So Remainsing your Soules Real friend to serve
in y^e truth

Ch^r Frothingham

Shew their teeth y^e their lion

Mr. Frothingham
Letter Sept. 4. 1790.

Given me Frothingham
Sept. 4. 1790
Rec'd Sept. 30.
J. B.

Very Dear Brother, Your I received
and your manuscript, but I made Remarks
on Mr. Brewster's two Letters, I should have published it,
if Brother Holy had not sent his answer to Mr. H. Last Letter
soon after I received yours, and I thought it was not best
to print both of them, lest our adversaries should make
an ill use of it, and seeing Brother Holy had taken up the
Dispute before, it was the most proper his should be printed.
And as to your Late piece that you gave Me the Contents
of in your Last Letter, I should be glad to have published
and so in the Desire of some of your Best Friends.

I have that of Late that if the Subject relating to
the Copulacy of ordaining the Ministers of Christ
was truly & fully investigated, and published it
might prove of great service in our day, for the
Clergy are very fond of thinking and declaring
that Christ hath committed the Keys of the Kingdom
of Heaven unto them, and that they have a Right to
commit them to such as they judge fit, and this power
they say they have from Christ. I heard a Charge given
to a young Man the other day, in the following manner
we to whom Christ hath committed this power I do with the
Consent of this Council ordain you a Minister of the new Test.
I commit unto thee Jesse the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven
I commit unto thee Jesse the Keys of Doctrine and Discipline
I commit unto thee this Church Congregation. He &c.
Mr. Jesse Jives was ordained at Potomac 4th of Wednesday in Sep.
1741

Shew their truth was their time

And since you have a Talent at writing, and
Composition, if you could find a freedom to labour
the point now in Debate, I would advise you to read
the following authors viz the preface sent. Dr. Owen's
Directions in the worship of God. and his indication
of the way of Congregational Chh. Mr. John Glass
1st Vol. I want to have the true Line of Succession
of Gospel Ministers justly delineated, and what is the
Gospel way of their being ordained, if officers only have
the Right of the imposition of Hands; how a Succession
of true Gospel Ministers can be kept up when a set of
Corrupt Clergy men have the Rule, or whether the
Defection of the Clergy will only make it dangerous for the
Chh to ordain new officers, or how may it be performed;—
and also whether any man may be received as a Minister of Christ
Let who will ordain him, if he hath not the Gospel qualifications;
and whether it be not a great absurdity for to deny that
the Gospel qualifications of Christ's Ministers (as the former is;
and whether the Circumstance required in ordaining
the Ministers of Christ doth not consist in true obedience
to the Law of the Gospel;—

pleas to write to me the next opportunity, and let me know
your thoughts in these things, and if you will upon the subject
mentioned above be very particular. Let the matter in a clear
a light as possible be seen, without partiality. —

Give my Regards to your Consort, and to all
inquiring Friends —
as to your Friend they are generally well. But Capt. Backus
Wife hath been brought very near the grave to all appearances
and Miss Tracy is now upon the point of Death with the
Dropsey — Will. M. Waterman's Wife hath had both her
Legs Cut of being deep with a Molestation, this was done
at the beginning of February, but is now in a hopeful way
it is not a sickly time but many have dropt away —
as to the State of Religion among us, it is a very dark time
a great want of Brotherly Love, and a true zeal for the
worship of God, fashionable Sins abounding with
uncommon wickedness, it is such an evil time that the
prudent are ready to hold their peace, it be forewarns us
to keep the word of Christ, rather than if we were to be ^{tempted} to be Assent
in the trying time — O my Brethren pray for me
pray for Zion, I do like subscribing my self your Cordial
Latter November April 1861 Friend John Fuller
A.D. 1861

P. S.
Brother Holy anser
is now in my pump. A with
be out in about a fortnight.

Shew their Teeth yea their Lion 1.1.1

John Sutter
died Apr. 16
1849.

Given in v. John Sutter
of Norwich Apr. 16. 1849.
Recd May 9. Backus.

Dear Sir

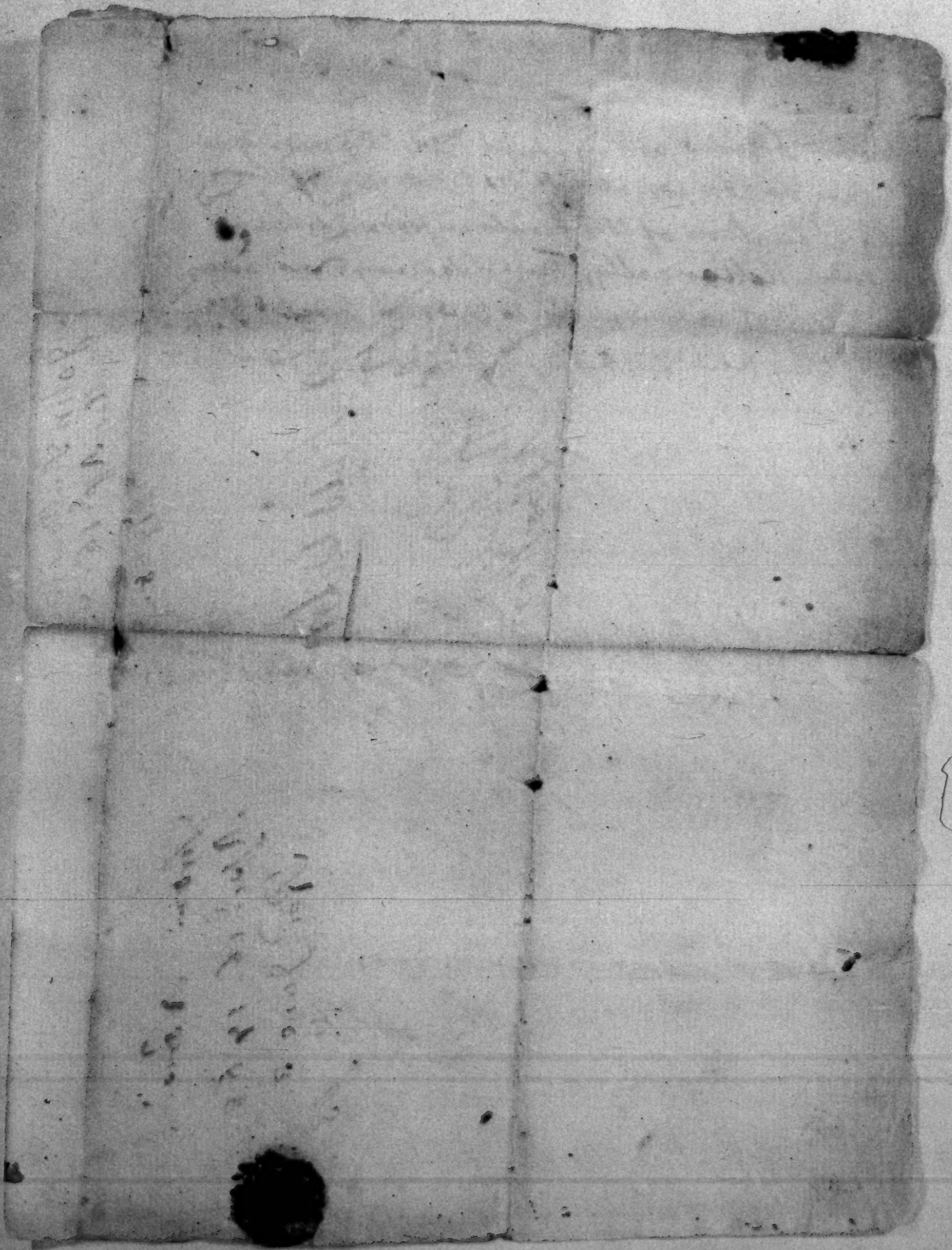
I have had no opportunity to write to you since
I received your Letter last fall, and now, via Boston
with regard to y^e matter talked on between us (err)
the Making an Answer to the much celebrated
Mr. Tith. it hath strengthened the bodily Kingdom
very Much — And it hath made stilly Christ Friends
show their Teeth yea their Lion Like teeth while
their Hair is as soft a Woman &c &c &c —
I thought of such a thing as this (err) that you
take my Manuscript. and make a Large
proface to it, and correct the principal part of it
and enlarge the appendix, and if you will thus
Do, and get it printed, and send me an hundred or
more of them, I can sell them quick, or if you have
wrote anything by it self. or separate from mine
I should be glad to see it, before you print it —
there is no Boy that hath undertaken to Answer
Mr. Tith. that will answer any good purpose there is
nothing that is likely to be printed, there is some
small attempt. But nothing that teaches the
minds of y^e Caste. I should be glad that you would
undertake if you have not already —

your Friends are in usual health among us
I have no remarkable News to tell you of —
the Situation of the People in Norwich town
is very Melancholly, there is so many moved away
and the Rest in general are so involved in debt &c
that they have Dismissed me from my pastoral
office among, and I know not what to do.
if there is any place any where in your parts

where I might be usefull &c please to inform
there is no Contention between me and the People
it is a pining time for poor ministers who have
not got on the Great plate of Iron and as it
were the Crown of gold on their heads &c
please to send me a Letter the first opportunity
give my unforgotten Respects to ^{your} dear spouse
and to all inquiring Friends —

There is a Great Religious Concern at
Convent sworn up Convent at River
Windsor Infirmary, I am —

all in haste from yours to Name
Sob. Norwich April 21st 1762 John Fuller



John S. & Co.
Letter, Apr. 16.

1468.

To Mr.

Isaac Bachus Vdm

Middlebrough

to be Legat. M. Shilley
Hoped in at Boston

From Norwich

Apr. 16. 1468

Rec. June 8.

13.

North Carolina Warren County
Honoured and Dear Brother

Tho unseen yet beloved tho I am the unworthiest
of all that is meet to be cald a minister of the
Gospel of Jesus Christ yet I am desirous to Contract
an acquaintance with all the labourers in my Lords
Vineyard, and as I have achance to write to my Elder
brother I hope you will Receive it at the hands of
brother Brame. In which I inform you of the grate
Declention of Religion in our parts which is agrief
to the souls of the godly, but yet I look for a far
better day than this. I mean the latter day glory
When all shall be taught of the Lord and grate
shall be the peace of his people, my brother
Pray for us in North Carolina that the Lord
would rain down Righteousness from heaven upon
us that his poor sion mount once more travel and
bring forth sons and daughters for god, my brother
I feel determined through grace to go on tho afflicted
I bless the Lord not forsaken I yet feel in my soul
to love Jesus my brother stir up the brethren to
Come and Visit us in our state, pray my brother
Write to me by brother Brame and you will oblige
your affectionate tho unworthy brother in Gospel
Bonds — Thomas Gardner

February the 6th 1797

Elder Brother Baccus —

Walter Mack Backus
living in state of Massachusetts
in middleborough
Case of
Brother Brown

Answered July 6. 1797.

Thomas Gardiner,
Feb. 6. 1797.
Rec. June 28.
J. B.

North Carolina Warren County, February the 12th 1799

Very Dear brother I gladly embrace the opportunity
of once more writing to you by which I inform
you of the state of Religion with us, we have some
time past had a blessed Revival of Religion amongst
us and at the present some are under powerfull
convictions and are day and night crying for mercy
that my God may display his power more & more
in the Salvation of precious souls and cause a glorious
Revival through his Churches that the mouths of
the Enemies might be stoped and Zion shout for
joy, Dear brother if my God would be pleased to put
it in your mind to visit us I should be glad
Do my brother Remember me a poor Creature
in your prayers before the Lord

Nothing more to add but remain your affectionate
the unworthy Brother in Gospel bonds

Thomas Gardner

the

Benj. Isaac, Esq.

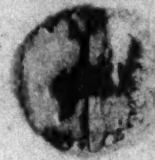
Living in the

Massachusetts State

Middleboro town ship

Rec'd by
Benjamin

Dr. Gardner.
Dec. 12. 1499
Rec. July 3.
8.03.



Ansford July 8. 1499.

Northampton County North Carolina
February 16th 1797

Dear Brother—

Our Worthy Brother Wm Brame came to my
House last evening & in our discourse he
informed me that he was acquainted with
a Preacher named Isaac Backus calling to
mind the reading of a Piece of your sitting
forth some years past, caused me to crave
the happiness of seeing your face in time
but thinking of the distance being so great
& the many years that we have both seen ^{not}
expect it, therefore have made bold to
write to you tho' a stranger; Dear Brother some
years past the candle of the Lord seemed to
shine among us, sinners were crying
for mercy & saints rejoicing in the Lord
but our present state seems to be much
to the reverse, many have lately departed
from the Faith & is to be feared given
heed to seducing spirits, Iniquity abo
unding & the love of my ^{an} waxing cold, which
causes me many times to complain of my lan
guage, & makes me often crave the prayers of
all them that know the truth, If we cannot
get your personal presence we hope to be ^{heard} ⁱⁿ ⁱⁿ
prayer, so I end with a sincere desire that the
Lord may add many souls to your Ministry
& that your last days may be your best days

I have been long time thinking of that Day
of the Prophet that the Knowledge of the
Lord shall cover the Earth as Waters do
the Sea, but see so little Prospect of it
begin to be out of Heart of ever seeing
Such a glorious time Militant—
So no more at Present only beg leave
to subscribe myself your Loving & well
wishing Brother till Death

William Garner

S. B. Please to give my respects to your
Wife & family

Answered July 10. 1797.

Feb. 16. 1797.

Wm. Garner.

Recd. June 28.

For J. B.

Reverent

Isaac Backus

in

Massachusetts

77
Providence Octo-14-1796

Dear Sir, Inclosed I send you the letters from the
Church, & Association; also the Minutes of our
Association. Your money intitles you to twelve,
by reason of getting ^{them} printed ~~at~~ cheaper
than was expected - They come at three-pence
a piece - I have inclosed the minutes to the
3 Church in Middleborough, and Barnstable;
three for each Church --- The Letter from
the Committee of the Congregational Deno-
mination is not included among the letters,
Mr. Hellman had sent it to Mr. Smith
of Haverhill; it shall be sent to you the
first conveyance - With due respect I
am your unfained brother in Christ.

Jas. Grafton.

The Account you have given of the State of Religion is very

Joseph Grafton.

Oct. 14. 1790.

Recd. Oct. 29.

J. B.

Rev. Isaac Bae

Ms. A. 1. 1. 1.

Recd. June 28

Dear Sir

A few weeks ago, I received your Letter, dated
March 14. 1768. & was not a little delighted with it. I have
the Account you have given of the State of Religion in your
Part of the World, to several of our Ministers & others, who ex-
pressed great Joy & Pleasure that the Ordinance on hearing
--- I myself rejoice greatly at it, not only that the Ordinance
of ~~the~~ Baptism is believed, professed & administered by us, who
are called Baptists, has been acknowledged, received & submitted
to by many among you, & in your Neighbourhood; but that
the Gospel of Christ, & the Doctrines of it have been em-
braced, & more especially that so many have been savingly con-
verted by them, & that they have come to them not in word on-
ly, but in power, & in the Holy Ghost, & with much Assurance
& they have felt the power of them upon their souls & have
a true & comfortable Experience ^{of them}. May this ~~Gift~~ ^{Visitation} of grace
continue & appear in more numerous Instances yet! - I wish
to give you a like Account of the State of Religion among us:
but few are the Instances of Conversion, & but seldom are
Visitations to our Churches; & the Life & Power of Religion seem
greatly declining among the Professors of it, very little spirit-
ual-mindedness, & spiritual Conviction to be found with us;

but a carnal worldly Spirit prevails. - We have ten or
Eleven of the Baptist Churches of the Calvinistical Per-
suasion, in & about this City of London, two or three
of which are very small & declining, the Rest have pretty
numerous Auditories: about fourteen or fifteen years
ago one of our Churches broke up, as did another about
three or four years ago, which when I first knew London
were very flourishing Churches. And of late one of our
Churches has been divided into two parts; occasioned by
their Ministers being charged with an unmat^e crime, which
some gave credit to, ^{& some} did not, & has tended not only
to the weakening of that Society, but to the great Rymach
& Scandal of Religion. - In England & in Wales we
have a large Number of Churches of our Denomination,
some of them are large, especially at Bristol, but the
most are poor & small; nor do I understand there
is any great Increase of them, nor of the ^{of the life & power} Revival of Reli-
gion among them. The greatest Appearance of God
among us, of late years has been in the northern parts
of England, in Yorkshire & Lancashire - within
a few years several new Churches have been raised, ^{these} &

chiefly out of the Established Church, & consisting of very
lively & experienced Christians, & who are greatly led into the
pure & glorious Doctrines of ^{the} Gospel, & are eminent
for their Zeal & holy Conversation - These are the most
particular Things that occur to my Mind at present.
You will easily imagine that I have a great deal of
work upon my ~~Head~~ Head & Hands, & which you
will readily admit as a sufficient Excuse, that I en-
large not in writing - Two Volumes on the former
Part of the Old Testament are now published, which
will come to New England along with this, & which
will soon come to your Hand, as I perceive, I have the
Honour of your Subscription to my Work - The Discourse
published by you mentioned in your post-Script I
have not received, which I greatly regret, having pleased
myself with the Thoughts of perusing it from the
Moment I had the Hint of it, as it would have given
me a more confirming Testimony of your Knowledge
of divine Things & your Zeal for them: &
which wd have been very acceptable to

London Mar. 17th 1764

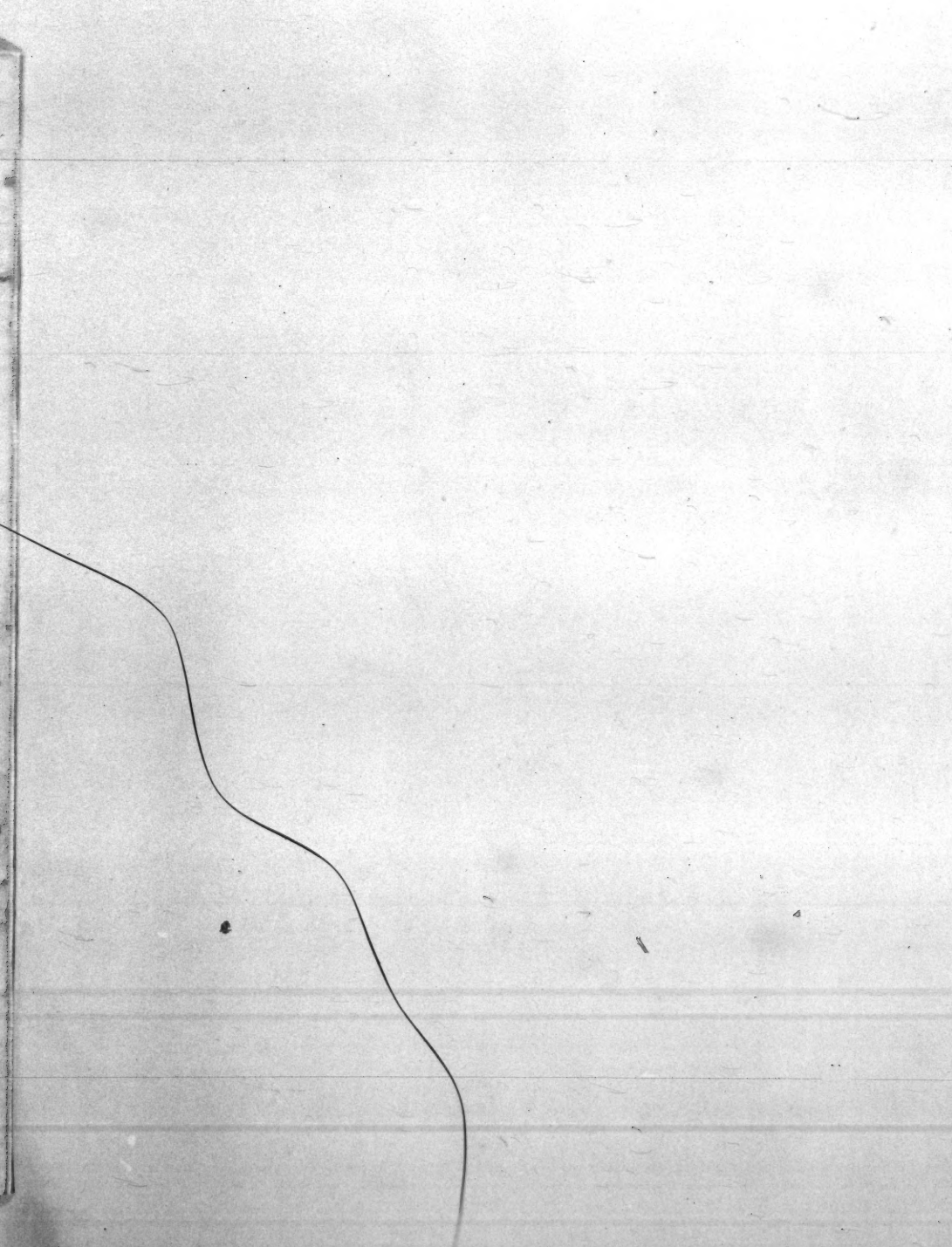
Your Brother & Fellow Labourer
in the Gospel of Christ
John Gill

Doctor Gill's letter to the
Rev. J. M. Buckus transcribed.

of Mar. 14. 1869.

Dr. Gill's letter
Mar. 14. 1869

To
the Student



Recd. Mar. 10. 1799.
88.
Jesse Goffin, and
Moses Morris. 1798.

Elder Isaac Backus.

Minister
of the first
Baptist Church
in
Wm. Bromfield Middlebury
Massachusetts
by Mr
Jas. D.

Dear brother I reciv'd your kind
letter by our traveling brother William
& am happy to hear that ^{you take} ~~knotted~~ of your
poor black brethren, Thank the lord we still
remaine ^{in the same} in the service of the lord tho
our trials is great but the kindness ^{of} ~~of~~ the
of the lord carries up - brethren
pray for us, that we may be more & more
able to support our intrust in the
high heaven, that we had the ^{same}
chance of traveling as our brethren
that we ~~could see~~ & choose a place
to pass we ^{would} be so happy but my
dear brethren we thank the good lord
who hath made us so humble to reconcile
our selves to our ~~condition~~ condition, we
have the chance of meeting to gather
with out anney in turrupition, we
have never bin objected from any
place where the lord has called us to
preach, tho our hard labor in the
rest of the week, is so burdensome
that it is hard when Sunday comes
we can hardly get to our appoint-
ment
but thank the good lord, that carries
us up under all these tribuls.
tho with sorrow & great grief to
the heart, but I thank the lord -

that we are with his Strong, and we believe all
things shall work for good, to them that love God
that are called according to his purpose, our sister
Churches in some places enjoy the presence of the
Lord, and we hope the good way will prevail thro.
the hole Earth and thro. Brothers from your age as
I am told is greatly advanced and in all probability
will live with the merits of the just one made perfect yet
your Labours will not be lost here, I beseech
our Brethren with you to pray for us, I am
so busy that while I am a writing, twenty times
called to my business in my Shop, I ought to us
Dear Brothers, and Brethren, and that our Gracious Lord
May prosper you in your worthy Ministry, and fill
us his blessing to the same, and that all flesh may
be in his Salvation thro. his Elect Love, and our poor

in the minds of some are

Brothers in Asia, Africa and America May Praise be
his dear Redemption and the wisdom of the Lord in
lighten the dark Earth is the ardent prayer of your
unworthy ^{brother} Brothers, in the Humble bonds of the
Gospel

Yours
Missed
Moses Morris, in behalf
of the Church and the
his brother

Dear Brother I received your Letter of Octo: 25th
in which I understand you are going to Virginia and request
me to come and Preach with your people some in your absence
agreeable to my promise. But since I saw you I have been
sick and am still poorly and how it will turn with me
I do not know, but I determine if Providence permit to
come the second Lord's day in January and tarry two or
three Lord's days; I have tried to get some supplies in
our parts but cannot obtain any. So I remain
yours in Gospel Bond Nath: Green

Charlton Nov: 10th 1788

As my being unwell I have borrowed another hand
to communicate my Ideas to you

their affairs, sum engagements,

has
light
Mr
G.

at Nat. Green.
at Nov. 10. 1788.
Rec. Nov. 20.
J. 13.

Rec. Jan.

Chutesbury January the 2^d 1802

Dear father in the Lord I improve
this opportunity to inform you that
thru the goodness god I and my family
ingoy a good state of health at present
and her ever since we came from Bridg-
water I and my children are very well
contented But my wife has been very
discontented But she is more contented
than she has been it is a general time
of health

But as touching religion it is very cold
and dull times in this place at present
But conferences are held once in a week
in different parts of the town
their appears sum engagements
in the minds of sum and our
conferences meetings are attended
with solemnity and greater atten-
tion for the most part

Pray sir Remember me one of
the least of all the servants of
Jesus Christ in your prayers that
I may be strengthened in the
faith of our Lord Jesus Christ
and be found faithful in his
word and work unto the End
I want to hear from you and your
and all my brothers and sisters in
the Lord pray sir send me a letter
as soon as you can make it convenient
Remember me to all the brethren
and sisters

I feel ver comfortable for the
moste Part But not without
Troyals So no more at presant
Butt I remain your friend
and servant till Death

Robert green

Robert Green,

Jan. 9. 1802.

Rec. Jan. 16-

Robert Green.
Aug. 3. 1805
Ret. Aug. 13. —
J. B.

Dear honoured Sir I embrace this opportunity
to inform you that I and my family enjoy
A comfortable state of health hoping that these
few lines will find you enjoying the same
Blessing I would inform you that since
I have been in this place the Lord I believe
has been carrying on his work in this town and
in the towns joining in our parts of Hadley
I believe that the Lord has had a number of
sons and daughters born to himself in the course
of the last summer and fall in this town
there has been a number that have been
thoughtful we have had conferences
in our school houses once and twice a week for
all most a year and a half the most parts of
the time attended with great solemnity
by both old and young it is not with

that life of Religion as I want to see it
is amongst the standing order in this town
for there is but a few Baptists in this town
Brother Archibald Leonard moved in last fall
with in one mind of me he enjoys the
comforts of religion for the most parts of
his time I would inform you that for
the most part of the time I do in your
sneak fear that this world cannot either
give nor take away But I meet with
a great many trials both of a spiritual
and temporal nature But the Lord has
preserved me hitherto for which I cannot
be half thankful a new - there has been
two added to Elder Smallidge's church this
winter there has not been much revival
parts in this town the people are very
much set in their way it is a great
trial to live in such a situation
for the most of them are set against
the Baptist so that there cannot be

that freedom that I could wish for
there has been a very severe drought in this place
there was no rain for seven or eight weeks
more than to say the dust it seemed that
every thing must dye till a few days ago
there was a lovely shower and the showers
continue every day

I intended to have come to middleborough
long before now but I have met with such
disappointments that I could not I want
to see you and your family and all of the
Brethren and sisters of the Church
Remember me to all inquiring friends
do no more at present but remain your
friend and servant till Death

Robert Greeny

I should be glad if you send me a letter
I want to hear how you and your family
are and the welfare of the Church and
the people at large

I do intend to come to see you as soon
as I can make it convenient

Amherst August 3d 1805

I moved in to this town the next day
after I came from Bridgewater I have
been in the employ of tending a grist mill the
most of the time

Elder Isaac Beckhous

in
Middleborough

Newport July 5th 1760

Dear Sir

After due respects, I am now inform
that according to your request by Mr. Hopkins
that the Books subscrib'd for, in consequence
of your subscriptions forwarded by Elder Wood
from here are expected to be lodg'd with me when
they come out, tho but one of the subscrip-
tions are return'd, besides that in this Town
which was left with Mr. Bliss: the former
is from Elder A. Brown, Maringtown for
24 Books who told me they shou'd have
sign'd for more, but the same book is
about to be answer'd by another hand,
nearer them, ^{the Author} ~~anonymous~~ names I forget, that
in this Town is for 21, 3 or 4 more Copies
were sent Westward, but have not heard how
they succeed, perhaps 6 or 7 doz are as many
as the whole ~~number~~ to be left here may
amount to — In the utmost haste I conclude
at present Yours in Love Thomas Green

Sho. Green
letter Aug. 5. 1968.

S. B.

Dear Elder Backus

Newport May 15. 1778

the contents shall be punctually observ'd — We are glad to hear of
some of the Spirit's influence in any place — Elder Weiden has
lately inform'd us of a marvelous work in them parts: about 20
had been baptiz'd in his Ch: & others added since he returned from here —
Jan^y last — besides which he baptiz'd 29 in two days in 2
neighbouring towns — moreover there has been added to the
Rogers's Ch: since last June 80 members, there being but abt. upon an
10 before; upwards of 20 in a day has been baptiz'd there —
Great cause of rejoicing this, to all who know & Love y^e Truth —
You may have heard of a meeting appointed here y^e 26th Inst. to
look into our Charter's Condition & transactions wth Mr. Dawson
It is what we, who were first separated from have been desiring ever
since, but never could have his consent to it nor any who were
with til Elder Weiden was last here — the assistance sent for we
expect from Elder Morse's & Elder S. Brown's Churches & probable E. Spring
will be here, Jenkins tho' not in a standing with y^e others is to be
admitted, only by Mr. D.'s request — but last Tuesday Wednesday evening
being 4 or 5 weeks since our letters went out) Mr. D. came amongst us
& earnestly requested that Elder Backus, E. Hinder, & Mr. Smith of Haver-
hill might be sent for on the Occasion citing this as a reason, that
he stood in connection with them, as he suppos'd we might wth y^e others,
having himself come out of a Church constituted by Mr. Smith —
to which we answered, that as y^e time was short we tho' it almost
impracticable to get them here at the time provided they were willing
& at leisure to attend especially Mr. Smith, yet we should be extremely
glad, in a special manner to have E. Backus, as he had been very
much made use of in difficult cases, & I propos'd writing to him
& Elder Hinder if Mr. D. desired it ^{as they} might possibly have time
to come — but this did not satisfy without Smith who he had
a particular desire should be here, & as he apprehended we should
have 3 on our side. he had a right to have as many on his
to which we answered, we did not understand the cause of Christ
to be promoted by strength of party nor did we think there was
opposite sides maintain'd between those Elders he would have
sent for, & those sent for already, if there was, we should not
desire their coming, for we did not want help to blow up
& establish a Party spirit amongst us ^{best} to search out & to kill
it off — And altho' ^{we} come to no agreement to send for any
others than what we had all agreed to before, yet if it should
might be in E. Backus's way to fall in amongst us at that
time (y^e Hinder too) it would be greatly to the satisfaction of
many who will likely attend, others of as well as we — there
in haste being the needful at present conclude in behalf of
myself my spouse & others with much Love & esteem
to yourself, y^e spouse &c. — Yours in near bonds
Thomas Green

Shad Green Keller
May 15. 1893

Cambridge Oct 8. the 10. 1705

With ~~the~~ ^{express} desire of real gratitude, I am press'd to write a few lines to you at this time

We have receiv'd our late from y^e Supreme Court, viz, we have lost your case which was depending

The Judges gave a most shocking arbitrary Resolution upon y^e Third Article of y^e Bill of Rights. They declare that no Society that is not under separate Laws, is ~~not~~ known in Law in this commonwealth. also that y^e Temporary Acts, the Quakers & Baptist & Churchmen are still in full force & that the Third Article is perfectly conformable to said Laws. also that the ~~many~~ ^{few} persons were obliged to determine in favour upon some Principals

My friends rejoice very much, but I desire to be humble before God, for I believe all these events are under Divine Government, and in the End will turn out to y^e Praise of God

After we lost y^e case, we went immediately to Boston for advice, Mr. Sturman, Chilman & Mr. Blood were together, & it was thought advisable to have our Committee together, on Monday next, in order to consult what we shall do. We have accordingly sent a young Man from us to you with these lines desiring your attendance on said day. If you can come on some part of y^e way on Lord's day next, & so be able to get to Mr. Chilman's as soon as possible on Monday morning we shall be glad

Dear Sir, reason why we thus press you to come is, The Capt. is now to pay. Besides the Parish Treasurers has given order to their collectors immediately to strain upon the ~~persons~~ ^{persons} of your Chares for Taxes, which will amount to 100 dollars &c.

And my Society are in present trouble! I do hope you will overcome any inconvenience in order to come to Boston on Monday morning. I now feel in my soul what others of my Brethren have gone thro, but I think I can in the Lord & stay my self upon my God, I propose to enter into particulars. I close your younger Brother & people of Christ Thomas Green. Give my love to Mr. Backus & family, Mr. Green joins with me in his love likewise

Washed of that & if I can by any

Our Com^{tee} met, and all but
 myself, David broke given to
 sue for the money that was
 taken from his people.
 And as more were found
 upon, he sue for the money
 three times before Justice
 different Justice of Peace, &
 received Judgment: then their
 enemies applied to Grand
 Court, where, after a full
 hearing, on March 18. 1786,
 the cases were turned in the
 Justice's favor; upon which
 the parish made up with
 them. The the money
 assigned to them was not
 paid on Aug. 25. 1786.

Sho. Green.

Oct. 28. 1785.

Wed. Oct. 29.

J. B.

Cambridge / Suffolk.

& send three pound of Sugar for the butter

Boston, Sep^r 9 1777

Sir I have sent

you by M^r Jeffers 30 Waight of feathers
for which I gave one Dollar a pound I
could not get them under in Boston

I could not engage them at that price till

I could know your mind. I gave that for
fear I should not get them at all

as there was none at any other place
in Boston as I could find as to the Salt

I cannot buy it at present with out
hane I can buy it for that at 4 Bushels
of hane for one Bushell of Salt

there is a Vessel in with a Large Quantity
on board which I expect will be to sell

when landed: I have 2 Bushells of Boat
for my own use you shall have one
Bushell of that & if I can buy any
before the Wagon comes I will

I should be glad to know what price
to give for it they tel me that they
now offer 8 Dollars a Bushell for all that
is in the Vessel I remain your friend
to serve Rich^d Pricey

and as more were found

To
Elder Ephraim Baskins

Wichita

Gridley Cattle
Sept. 9. 1887

Boston Sept 30 1779

Sir Recd yours this Morning

Rejoys with you in the work of God among you
& pray that he would visit us in this barren
place & I pray with you that it might be
universal

I Recd three pounds of butter by the carrier
& send three pounds of Sugar for the butter &
send 75 Skaines of Cotton yarn & 35 Dine of tow

Remane yours to Service Desiring your prayers
Rich^d Gridley

Letter Sept. 30

1779.

To The

Rev. Isaac Backus

Son

Middleborough

Middleborough October 9-1777

Dear Sir

I have to inform you that Mr David is to
be in ^{the} town of Providence next first Day
that we shall not expect yourself there
for we thought it was not worth while to
put you to so much trouble to travel so far
when Mr David was in town. Dear Brother I
hope you are well and all yours and that you
will remember me who am the least of all
saints. the work I have set out in appears very
great and without God I cannot preach O my
more deccatful heart is a heavy burden to
me and I know no other way to get rid of it
but crucify it and the old man together this I
resolve to do as long as I live I expect
to die in the battle and blessed be God it is his
the last Enemy is Death how soon I shall meet
that I know not neither do I care if I can act for
God while I live ~~people~~ ^{and} from the President
and his Wife at York they were just a Week ago
there and were well then I ad no more but conclude
your unworthy but I hope sincere Brother in Christ

William Grow

I I Dear Sir you will not expect me to
go to see you now seeing Providence
sent Brother David

rec. Oct. 11. 1872

Letter Oct. 9. 1872

To

Elder Backus

III

Middleboro 1192

Middleboro Aug 11

North West June 18. 1801

My Very Dear & Rev. Elder

In compliance with the desire of that servant of the Churches Brother Wm Parnam I have taken my pen to write you a few lines. Should you be inclined to ask "who are you?" My Dear Elder, I am an Englishman born in the County of Cornwall, where I spent my youthfull days untill I was nearly sixteen years old in Sin & Vanity like other youth, And my Parents having no fear of God before their eyes did nothing to check the growth of those rankerous weeds which abounded in my conduct & conversation on which account I ran to great excess & became a ringleader in all kinds of youthfull rudeness & diversion - But O may I never forget the Time, God who is rich in mercy & who separated me from my mothers womb called me by his Grace. This all-gracious discovery of the Lords kindness took place in the following manner - A woman in our Town had been much harassed with Temptations & horrid Injections from the devil, which distressed although it drew the attention of the religious people towards her, was never blessed of God in leading her to a discovery of her own sinful condition & the impossibility of salvation but by & through the Lord Jesus. At length she became guilty of suicide after all yet the attention of one religious woman to her, & concern for her being manifested among many other things in leading her Bungans Grace Abounding opened the way for such a poor unworthy creature as I am to find mercy - The distracted creature (for such she was) came to purchase some articles in my mothers little store or shop & going out left the Book on the Counter just at the moment I was coming into the House. The small size of the Book was a very great inducement with me to take it up & read, I did so, & God was pleased thereby to fasten conviction on my mind of my natural depravity & vile conduct, & accompany it with a disposition to seek his face & his favour continually through a precious Redeemer - & thus I went on although very imperfectly for near four years - when the Brethren

thought I might be of some use to the world more than I then was
by attempting to preach the Gospel, they therefore gave me a
unanimous call to that work. And thus my prayers were answer-
ed for from the time I received my first impressions to the
time the church called me to labour I had been praying to God
to make me of some service to my fellow creatures in that
way. I went on comfortably near four years in the Church
which called me out, & then attending to the advice of Friends
went to the Academy at Bristol under the Tuition of Dr. Ryland
- remained there about two years, & was then sent by the
Mission Society, as a Missionary to the Coast of Africa, and I have
sometimes thought my heart was in the work, but unhappily
I opposed the Governor & Clergymen of Sierra Leone (who were
both Scots Men & rigid presbyterians) in some oppressive Ecclesi-
astical Laws which they made with a view to force the Black
people from their own places of Worship, to the Presbyterian
Church & to support that Minister, & in consequence
of this my opposition I was obliged to leave the Coast.
This I accordingly did on the 25th of May 1797, & landed at
Norfolk in Virginia on July 20th following - In which County I
now live, at a place called North West, & through Mercy I
love, & am beloved here by the People. For I assure you
my Dear Elder it is all mercy to me that I am out of Hell.
When I look back on all the way I have gone through the
wilderness, how much cause do I see for humiliation
mourning & woe! - So much baseness in Principle & Practice
before I knew the Lord, So much Backsliding since, So much
aboundings of evil in my daily walk & conversation even now.
yet through Grace I have been kept from those practices that
would have opened the mouths of enemies to blaspheme the
worthy name by which we are called, & it appears to me
that I have only been kept, saved, yet scarcely saved -
I hope I can now say my desire is still to go on in
the good old way, & I desire that God may make me
usefull to the world, while I am in the world -
I have frequently had the pleasure of reading your writ-

things but never thought of writing you untill my
Dear little Brother now present with me pressed me to
do it, & even now I almost repent seeing I am only
troubling you with this chat who have things of so much
importance to claim your attention -

One thing I must not forget although there is no
doubt but you will hear of it from abler hands &
those more acquainted therewith - There are
glorious times among us, The Lord is here -
Good news, is often brought to us from a far
Country - Kentucky & Cumberland with their
thousands & ten thousands of young converts
are shouting salvation to the Lord -

The Middle & Dover District Associations in
most of their Churches have had glorious times
Thousands have been brought home to God in them
during the last two years - & the work
is still going on, Pleased be God -

I received a letter lately from Brothers of
Georgia - news not so good - small addition & great
complaints shew that the state of religion is low -
Yet something is doing - There is a new Association
formed on the Mountains & some hope that
the Lord is about to begin a work among
them -

Dear Elder I would proceed
had I any thing interesting
& had I time, but that
not being the case -
I conclude Yours &c

My Dear Father
pray for us in this
part of the world

Jacob Grigg

Should my dear Elder be so kind as to send
me a line he will direct to me
North West Norfolk County Virginia

Elder Isaac Packard
Pastor of Ministers
Middleborough
Massachusetts

Jacob Grigg,
June 18. 1801,
Recd. Apr. 26. 1802.
J.B.

Cynham June 7 1749

Dear Brother Wee have many Enemies to Encounter
hile in this vail of Tears many Corruptions within
nd alcho a fittel Devil with various Engtriments
ithout and wee have need to take to our selves
only part But the whole Armour of God
order to withstand them Dear Brother Let us watch
Pray Least wee inter into Temptation
then i was with you on y^e fast wee were
neaking something about Mr Blanchard Con
mining his Behaviour our people had a jalogi also
bout him and thought it proper to Examine
in into his Call to preach and accordingly did
etween mettings on y^e fast day as i understood
ly But he utterly Refused to give any account
nd Got his nature up against them and some
hers Also ^{with him} and Drawd off into another Room
d game would had him prechd to those that
uld hear him But he did not But spent y^e
ter noone in talking together he also said he
uld see how they Carried on mettings some of
Brethren Came out in wonderfull Liberty
Soul after ~~a while~~ a while he ~~was~~ went
way to Egers whits with several others and
is still in Town ~~and~~ maintaining a party and
nderstand that he Desires to Come to mettings
th you on y^e Sabbath Dear Brother Be ware of
a for i Doubt not But he is a woulf in sheeps
thing Dear Brother pray for us Jonathan Hall
Isaac Backus of Bridgewater jun^r

641.11 v.1
June 17. 1749
Copy of
Isaac Backus
to Jonathan Hall

God the
Lord who
is our strength
and our
Saviour
and our
King

July 5. 1749 This
Day we kept as a day
of thanksgiving for
the mercy that the
Lord hath lately shewn
us in giving Rain when
the Earth was desper-
ately dried so that it fer-
ds if there would be nothing
left either for man or
beast Then the Lord ap-
peared refreshing to our souls & things re-
mainably recovered

July 5. 1799
 This day we
 kept as a day
 of thank
 Ghand gave
 us to get
 for sending
 down in this
 fishery line
 and he has
 & gave me
 some strong
 especially in
 the afternoon
 in declaring
 his distrust
 saying open the
 door of love
 with
 the next morning
 he sent a fine
 young ram laden
 with grass a
 good spring of
 Ghand's things
 to my love
 O my dear
 O my dear
 in the night
 the 10th

Dear Brother,

Hopewell July 25. 1781

I had the Pleasure, a few Days ago, to receive
kind Letter of y^e 24th May ult. and must also acknowledge
receipt of one of a more ancient Date, which ought to have
answered long ago; but many Avocations, and the Want of
Opportunity, joined with a cold Heart, have prevented.

However are too good a Correspondent to wait the Compliment
Letter, for which I esteem you the more highly; and should
happy could I render my self more deserving of your Regard.

It is a lamentable Consideration that, in these Days
of Light and Vision, heretical Tenets should pollute the Mines
many; but this is one of the Games at which Satan hath
and in every Age of the Christian Church; more especially
Times of Revival, the Enemy will sow such Tares among
Wheat. - Who could have thought that in Philadelphia, a
free, unconnected Winchester could have tainted the Minds
many with the damnable Doctrine of Universal Salvation?
it is wild Fire, and like wild Fire it hath spread; and, I
trust, like wild Fire it shall be extinguished. I cannot learn
it hath made its Way into the Country, and am inform'd
even Winchester fails in his Popularity. It is notwithstanding
our Duty to make Head against every Deviation from Truth.
You have, no Doubt, had a sufficient Call to appear in Print
against Universal Salvation. I could wish to see the Piece;
with any View of correcting it, not being equal to that
; but in Hopes of the same Pleasure, Gratification and
Instruction receives from reading your other Works.

I am sorry you have cause to complain of the Want of Encouragement.

your Indications, especially the Baptist History, which I
have with Pleasure, and was in Hopes the second Volume
would shortly have made its Way into the World, but am now
somewhat discouraged. I am sorry to say the Baptists are generally
a People of contracted, and, I has almost said, of mean Spirits.
They are content "Not to know any Thing before they were born".
And should a more liberal Genius rise up amongst them, it
may be sure to be cramped.

What is become of those History's you sent by M^r. Pittman,
I cannot say, but believe few of them are within the Vicinity
of this Church. M^r. Cole is moved to the Seats Plains, and
succeeds the late worthy M^r. Miller, so that I cannot now
enquire of him concerning this Matter; should I gain any
Intelligence about it, shall inform you.

When attending the yearly Meeting at Piscataway, was
informed that, most remarkable Work of God had taken Place
on the Frontiers of Pennsylvania; said, by some to be equal
to any Thing of the Sort that has ever happened, since the
apostolic Age. I wish it may prove a true Report, but
have it not in my Power to give you the Particulars.
O may the Gospel of Jesus be preached with Success over all this
inhabited Globe! And may poor Hopewell catch the sacred
Flame. I have been labouring in this Vineyard for upwards
of eighteen Months, but have not had the Pleasure of seeing
any Fruit of my Labour, unless it be in my Attempts
to unite a divided People. This was my grand Object in
taking upon me the Charge of this Church, altho' I knew
the Difficulties attending a Work of that Nature. Thro'
Mercy, am not without Hopes of succeeding.

Lord hath lately shewn
us in crime.

And Thes

I remain, with Affection and Esteem,

Your unworthy Brother in Christ,

Oliver Hart.

Mr. Hart died at Hopewell,

Dec. 31. 1795.

He was born July 5. 1723, the
year before he was born.

Mr. Hunt's Letter

July 25. 1782.

Rev. Mr. F.

9. B.

Princeton

New England.

Middleborough

Rev. Isaac Backus

Lord hath lately shown

Ther



Lebanon Nov 10 1779

Worthy Friend

I have never sent you a Letter since you were here at Lebanon
altho I have ^{wrote} Considerable in order to send to you &c —
I received your kind Letter but it was long after it was dated
I am Obliged to you for your care for us in y^e Gospel of Christ
& in as much as you wanted to know of our affairs & how we do
I will give you a brief Narrative of y^e same I trust Dear brother
y^e we live in peace & I trust y^e y^e God of us is in y^e midst of us & dwells
with us. & I believe y^e y^e branches here y^e are y^e united to Christ &
to one another by his spirit Grow in grace & increase in y^e knowledge
of God, & are built up in Love, & Establish^d in y^e Truth —
And God of his sovereign Grace & good Measure has added to our
number since you left yus 2 male members & 2 female members.
The latter part of Summer or beginning of fall there were 3
persons y^e wanted Baptism in Lebanon & Canaan & we had wrote
a letter misgiving but had not sent it for want of opportunity, &
while we were waiting for an opportunity we being in y^e way of our
Duty; God Directed Elder Jacobs in y^e course of his Providence to
come among us, he Preach^d 2 sermons at Canaan & 2 at
Lebanon & baptized y^e above mentioned 3 & rejoiced with us in
Gods goodness & went on his way. we purpose to send for him
not long first to breake bread to us, if you shod come into
these parts come & see us & see wheather we walk as Children of
Day. You gave me a hint in your Letter of a revival of Religion
Down in your parts I rejoice not only y^e God sets at helm in government
& Rules as a sovereign, but y^e he is visibly at work & making
manifest his power & grace in Convincing & Converting sinners
& building up his Ch^h in y^e word. — I have heard of Sunday of
late y^e has gone forth to Preach y^e Gospel & Proclaiming Liberty
to Slaves in y^e sin of our Denomination, besides those y^e have been educated
at Providence College — Dear Brother I want to write to you more in
quantity then 3 Sermons & I did purpose to write Largely to you & y^e is
y^e Reason why I have not wrote before, but when I shall write my
mind to you I know not — y^e foundation of Infant Baptism is Federal
Holyness, & in regard to Pedenary I have settled y^e matter with Clearness
to my own understanding, according (as I conceive) to y^e Scriptures
there is but 2 Covenants, y^e Covenant of works & y^e Cov^t of grace, &
but 2 Cov^t heads, y^e first & second Adam — & as to y^e first Adam who
was

The first of these is the fact that the
 world is not a uniform whole, but a
 collection of many different parts, each
 with its own peculiar characteristics.
 The second is the fact that the world
 is not a static whole, but a dynamic
 one, constantly changing and evolving.
 The third is the fact that the world
 is not a simple whole, but a complex
 one, with many different levels of
 organization and many different kinds
 of interactions.

was a grate ^{representative} of humane Race was their head &
representative, they sinned in & fell with him, they were by
partook of guilt of his sin but of Total depravity of Nature
& with him became Dead to all ^{spiritual} Life & Dead in
sin, & by nature are federates in sin & Death with him, &
Exposed to Condemnation & Ruin, for Proof of which see Romans 5. Calor
this doctrine of original sin was maintained & taught & believed
among of ancients from of beginning
- the Glorious head of Gov^t of Grace & second Adam who came
to restore a member of humane Race to Glory & happiness became
their head & representative in of Covenant & all of elect were
considered in him, & ^{as} deemed righteous & holy on account of
what he was to do & has done; they were all considered in him when
he fulfilled of righteous Law of God on their account, & made
it honourable before all intelligences. - they were considered
in him when he suffered of penalty of of Righteous^{Law}, which
Condemned them to Death & misery & satisfied Divine justice
for them; they were considered in him when ^{he} Entered in his
Glory, I go to prepare a place for you, if it is all of Elect.

In brief these 2 are all of Covenants Extent in of words of ^{type} ^{of} ^{humane} Race as to their Eternal state & we are all un-
of one or other; there is but 2 Covenant head^{as} before observed
& but 2 federacies, of one is a federacy in sin & wages of which
is Death, of other is a federacy in holyness with which is Connected
happiness - there was a federacy between Abraham & his
seed under of Law which was designed in Infinite wisdom to
infigure of federacy between Christ & of Elect, Abraham
as a type of Christ, his seed a type of true believers.

I want to write but I Cant here deliver my mind &
so I must desist with beging your prayers for me &
for of Ch^{ts} of Christ here so I remain brother in of
Common faith

Leah Hebbard

To M^r Isaac Backus at Middleborough Elder of
abaptist Chth of Christ there

most authorily, say practically, it is

Post 2

No

Jedidiah Helbard
Letter Nov. 19 1792

Elder Isaac Backus

In

Middleborough Massachusetts

This I took out of the
Post office in Boston.
Sept. 9/10

My Friend

Lebanon August. 1773

I received yours of 1st of August for which I give
you thanks & am glad to hear you are well —
I rejoice to hear of Prosperity of Zion & that God
is at work in your parts. God Reigneth Let ^{the} Earth
rejoice to hear of Christ is gathering in his Elect
is matter of great Consolation & joy to all of us with
well to Zion, & if showers may reach this wilderness
if it may blossoms arise & become fruitful
to God. — I Elder you mentioned in your letter has
come among us, I trust has Consolated & hearted
of Gods Children in these parts, & he has offered matter
of Conviction to sinners & I hope this & Efficacy of
of Gods holy spirit it will prove effectual for their
Souls good — it is of Desire of me (the most unworthy
unworthy of all visible members of Christ. (Am.)
if I Chks of Christ would lift up a cry to Zions
King of Great Lord of Harvest (where tighest it is) if
he would send forth faithful Labours into his
harvest, if a vineyard may be sown & manured
& almost barren Plants may become fruitful
& be fat & flourishing in a Courtyard of our god
& if Convents may come to Zion with singing &
everlasting joy on their head —

Dear

Harmony & agreement & I would be glad to see it
In regard to resisting Civil authority In Eccle-
siastical affairs, & I think there is a hearty concu-
rance in our Chh to the vote Past last fall in
association - & we voted to send in our minds
in writing to Association this fall -
but being apprehensive if we cant have an
opportunity to meet in Chh Meeting & then have
opportunity of sending, I shall send some
minutes to you which I wrote some time since
for that purpose, being appointed by our Chh to write
an answer to a vote & request of Association,
which I answer, to be heard by our Chh for their
approbation which our greatest part of our Chh has
seen severally & concurred with, but not in a
Chh meeting - this sending in our minds we do
for unity in the Chhs & because we think it
is our duty & for the strengthening the hands
& in courageing the hearts of such of our brethren
as are under bondage if we are not, for we
are not obliged to carry in any certificate
yearly or so much as to carry in our names
yearly.

Wm.

Now in regard to the offer of our Ch^h
Peace seems to dwell in y^e midst of us
& an Established mind for God & his ways
tho lately no signal tokens or displays of
Divine Power in y^e Conversion of any
ah Indeed Dear M^r we have yet great
reason of Deep humility & self abasement
before God y^t we live no more to y^e glory
of his great Name —

I Desire your Prayers for me & also of y^e Ch^h
of Christ with you y^t I may know my Duty
& Submit thereto & glorify therein & honour y^e
I Profession I have made of y^e name & Religion
of Jesus. Dear M^r I remain your in the

fellowship of want
Ed Hubbard

P.S. I am so little acquainted with y^e Baptist
Ch^h & their affairs y^t I cant be much help in what
you requested in your letter — but only this there is
Eleven members in our Ch^h — I sh^d do

now has moved to other brick which
our hands are

Received of
Peter Aug. 17. 1743.

Do

Wm Isaac Backus

2d. Sept. 7.
P. 12.

Wm. Wrought

Much respected friend, I Reciev'd your kind letter
of this instant Oct^r, & also a book, for which I
Thank you, I send you five Dollars for the book
Be so kind as to send me the second volume
as soon as you can, after it comes from the
Press, & the price, & I will send you the pay for
it, & I shall acknowledge myself Obliged
As to the Baptist Ch^h in these parts, I am not
acquainted with their numbers, only in Lebanon
the Baptist Ch^h in Lebanon was gathered June 7th
1771 consisted of 6 members, has been added since
five, 2 Dead, — we have been in Expectation of
Mr. Borroughs. To come among us this fall, & are
Not out of hope of his coming yet; we have sent
in time past, for one or two preachers & had in-
-couragement of their coming, but Providence prevented
their coming — Sister Kilburn is Dead, & brother
Kilburn has moved Down to Connecticut, & brother
Craw has moved to Otter Creek which has weakened
our hands, but God is our strength — sister Delight
Seafild is Dead, the only 2 members Deceased of this
Ch^h — I Rejoice to hear that God is
At work by the power of his Spirit in any part of
this land, & that additions is made to the Ch^h of
such as shall be saved — God has been marvellously
to work in his Providence for this 3 or 4 years; Gods
Voice therein is as loud as Thunder to this land, to
Leave of Tyranny & Dispotism in the Ch^h as well
As to repent, — & in regard to the Ch^h, Christ says
to such as are lukewarm, repent & do they first
works or I will come & remove the candlestick out
of its place, but those Ch^hs which, supported by
civil authority, say practically that Christ shall
Not remove the candlestick, altho within these 4 years
God has removed a number of Ch^hs in this land

land in the course of his providence, wherein God is admonishing of us as a people in Lib. & State
to a humble Dependence on him, & to live to him & but I can't give you my thoughts on God's dealing
with us in regard to the present Chastisement in these few lines, only say God has done better by
us as people than our fears, & infinitely better than our Deserts, & praise & salvation belongs to
God, who is the Father of all our mercies, & our Springs are in him & —

I saw Genl. Burgoinde Captured at Saratoga, therein appeared a wonderful display of divine
goodness in the whole scene, Esptl. Especially in preventing the effusion of blood, & the Lord
gave us to see our share in our enemies, & glory is due to his name —

W. S. Thos. have reason to apologize for my not writing to you often if I had opportunity
but I suppose that is a sufficient apology; be so kind as to write to me. Jediah Hubbard
as often as you can; I remain your brother & Gospel laborer

Lebanon Oct. 23. 1778

To Mr. Isaac Backus of Middleborough

P. S. Give my kind love regards to such as
Love our Lord Jesus Christ in Truth, Desire the
prayers of all such for us, may the gods of peace
Dwell with us all Amens

When I was at Connecticut two years ago I heard
Mr. Mosley preach & I Dislike his Discourse - he
Labour'd to make it appear that the unregenerate
may ^{do} much of it is pleasing to God; & and in his
afternoon Sermon he said a sinner as to the
Matter of Duty could please God. I sh^d. be glad
to have a few of your tho^ts on the Subject when
you have an opportunity; (I send you a few of
mine in closed) which if you do you'll Oblige
your friend & Brother

Jed^d. Hubbard

Oct. 24th 1778

Mr. Isaac Ho

At

Middleborough

Very Respected friend I received your kind letter
return you thanks, & am glad to hear you
are well, & also of the flourishing state of
Religion in Providence & elsewhere in your
parts, which I trust makes glad the hearts
of Gods people in these parts, but I must
not forget to acknowledge God in his works among
us here in the wilderness, there has been
a great revival of Religion at Dartmouth
College & by the best know I have obtained
there is in that Seminary about 30 Converts
since last fall, — a general Concern in Norwich
on the other side of the River, & in Hanover, & in
Lebanon, there is great reason to hope that there
is about 10 young Converts, Mr Potter much
stirred up to faithfulness in preaching publicly,
& from house to house, souls inquiring
what they must do, in great distress, —
Doct: Wheelock says he hopes the Latter
Day glory begins to open, that Day begins to
to Dawn, — Christians with us are much
waked up, & a time of rejoicing with us
a time of union in our Church no difficulties
arise among us, but a gloomy Day as to
our National affairs which calls for humili-
ation before God for our backslidings
&

le.
no
st.

Revolting, & turning aside from the
right way, — Dear Brother Goddard
Let us Rejoice, for all things shall
Terminale in the glory of God, & for
the good of Zion — for if it be in
affliction, it is a furnace to purge
their Dross & take away their sin
therefore we may always Rejoice, &
again I say Rejoice —
it is general time of health in our
parts & I hope these Lines may
find You & the Church of God so
& others in general. So I remain
Your Brother & friend
Lebanon May 26.th 1775 Jed^{ah} Hubbard

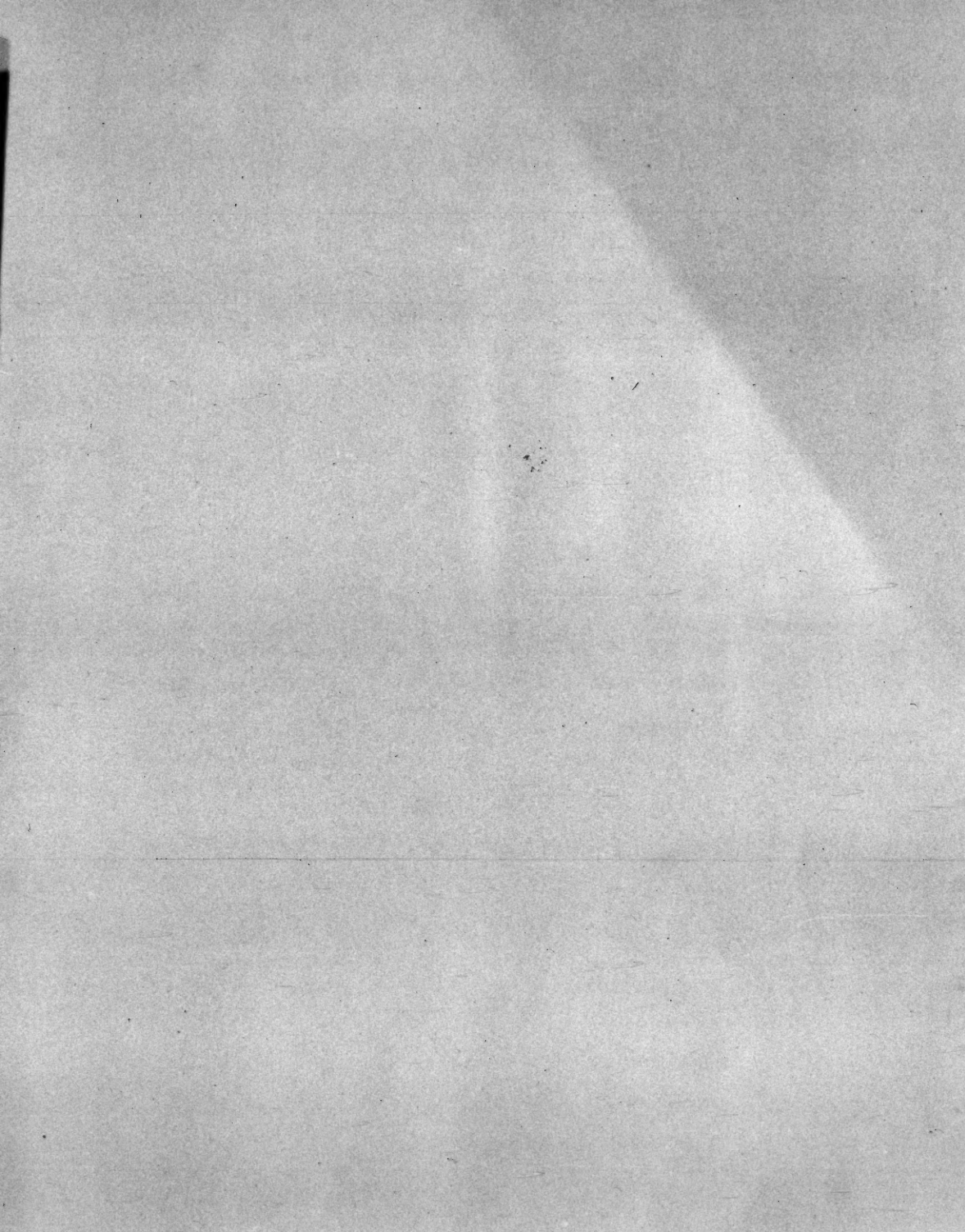
1. AB, We are in Constant Expectation
of Mr Burroughs to preach with us
he belongs to Connecticut

Red. Hebrew Bk.
May 22. 1945.

From Dover.

To
Israel Nathan Elder
of a Church
At
Middleborough

Dec. 2. June 18.
1873.



Members is, & was held forth to view of Relation in Court between
Christ & the Elect, & his Relation as head to y^e members by take-
-ing our natures into a personal union with y^e Divine for says
the apostle speaking of y^e visible Ch^h, ye are members of his
body, of his flesh, & of his bone. So it was literally between
Ab^m & his Seed in Court. — also Ab^m & Posterity were Taken into
that Court by absolute Sovereignty without their knowledge or
Consent, so it is in the Court of Grace, as we find in Eph¹, v¹ Ch^h
& 2^d Tim^o 1-9 — (But it is not so in regard to the visible Ch^h
for in visible Relation, they ^{are} voluntary members by their
own consent.) But in regard to y^e Court of Grace when any
is personally brought into it, it is by an act of Sovereignty
for when a Soul is Regenerated or born again, it is done by a
Supernatural, irresistible, almighty power, without y^e creature's
knowledge or Election — but the fact is too large to write upon in
a letter, I shall therefore conclude with some intelligence.

It has been considerable of a revival of Religion in
Windsor a little below us, this winter, & a Ch^h of the Standing
Order gathered there, & M^r. Tuller settled over y^e Ch^h there.
The Christians together with M^r. Tuller were a mind to
meet together to converse on Religion, & tel what God had
Done for their souls, there was Objections flung in against
it by some, but M^r. Tuller help^d to remove the Objections
& they Related what God had Done for their souls, Gravely
& Distinctly; which had a wonderfull Effect to quicken their
Minds, & unite them together in y^e bond of fellowship, &
Love; & to some who were members before who had nothing
to relate it caused great stretchings of heart; & it is that
it has ~~had~~ been y^e Greatest means used there for pro-
-moting of the work of God in y^e Place: The Lord reigns
— O may we rejoice therein.

I shall send these lines by M^r. John Porter of Bridgewater
About 5 miles from you — & there is 2 men coming from
there to Lebanon in y^e last of April or May, by whom
you may send —

I & my family are in usual health tho Divine goodness
now Hope you & yours are so, I subscribe myself your
Brother in gospel bonds

Lebanon March 13th 1779 — Jed^d. Hubbard

To Mr. Isaac Backus at Middleborough

Much Respected Friend, I Received Yours of Friday
By Mr. Ab^m Perkins, with your Thots on Liberty
And Government, &c. I here thankfully acknowledge
Your kindness, — the corruption & depravity of
Mankind is such, that the faithfull will allways
Have matter of labour, in contending for y^e faith, liberty
And priviledges Jesus Christ has given to his Ch^{ch}
By grants, & has commanded us therein to stand fast.
Therefore Dear brother as opportunity presents labour
therein, & the Lord Bless your labours, & reward you
therefor, — I have ~~had~~ lately had considerable
Meditation on sundry particulars; which questions I have
sent to Mr. Potter of Minister of Lebanon for his Answer.
& he tells me he will write his mind relative to them, and
let me have it, & I have a Desire some y^e person
of the Baptist Order sh^d answer y^e same questions, y^t
thereby light may arise on the subject. I have began
to write an answer to y^e questions, but I believe I shall
not please myself so well as many Others would.

I will here note some of y^e questions above referred to

- Q¹ 1, In what point of light are we to view the Gov^t. God
made with Ab^m according to the analogy of Scripture.
1st is it y^e Gov^t. of Grace, Or
2, is it y^e External administration of y^e Gov^t. of Grace, Or
3, is y^e Gov^t. a figure of y^e Gov^t. of Grace.

- Q² 2, How Ab^m ought to be considered, as head of y^e Gov^t.
And as heir of y^e world, & Father of y^e faithfull.
1st are we warranted from Scripture to consider believers
In Christ, & their natural Offspring under y^e Gospel Dispⁿ
sation in y^e same manner as we do, or ought to view
Ab^m & his natural Offspring in his Gov^t. (viz)
I will be thy God & y^e God of thy seed forever. Or
2 Shall we consider Ab^m as a figure of y^e Messiah, & y^e
Jewish Ch^{ch} establish^d by y^e Gov^t. when considered as a Col-
= lective body, a figure of the Elect, the True Israel of God

Q. 3. Whether y^e Co^ot. which God made with Abr.^m y^e consti-
tuted y^e Jewish Ch^h, is y^e same from which y^e Ch^h of Christ
now Derives its Rules, Privileges, & Blessings. Or
Whether y^e Ch^h now Derives its being, constitution, & Privileges
from a Co^ot. which is no otherwise y^e same then y^e Rock
in y^e wilderness was Christ, as mentioned, 1 Corinth 10-4,

Q. 4. Both Baptism, & y^e Lords Supper, come in y^e Place of
Circumcision, And y^e Passover.

Q. 5. What was y^e requisite qualification Necessary for circum-
cision & y^e Passover in y^e Person to whom it was to be admin^{ist}ered

Q. 6. What Did Cerimonial Cleansing, or cleansing under y^e
Law, allude to under y^e Gospel —

1st was it a Representation of Natural Vertue & morality,
An outside Cleansing, Or

2^d was it a Representation of our hearts being sprinkled
from an evil Conscience, And our bodies washed as with
Pure water.

Q. 7. Was not Abr.^m seed in y^e line of y^e Patriarch, which was
Gods visible Co^ot. peoples in the Co^ot. as soon as born, or
Rather were they not to be considered as included in
the Co^ot. while in Abr.^m Loins.

Q. 8. Was not y^e land of Canaan, even y^e Inheritance which
the Lord promised to Abr.^m & his seed, a figure of y^e
Inheritance of y^e Saints in light; or is it only to be
considered as one of y^e Temporal blessings included
In y^e Co^ot.

Q. 9. Whether y^e same Federal Relation, & Federal Holiness
now continues between members of y^e Gospel Ch^h &
their natural Offspring; w^h was between Abr.^m & his children

Q. 10. What shall we understand from y^e Divine command or
Institution, which made it an incumbent Duty on y^e Ch^h
to bring all their sacrifices & offerings to y^e Tabernacle, & offer
them only after where y^e fire of y^e altar was continual

Prophecy, in print, lately Published at New York, w^h
will manifestly come to light before these lines will.

The question I am now about to write sh^d. have been the ninth
And that which I have numbered of ninth sh^d be No 10, &c

11, or Rather 9th whether y^e Gov^t. or Federal Relation which was
Constituted by Gov^t, & subsisted between Abr^m & his children
was not a Representation of y^e Federal Relation, which
there is between Christ & y^e Elect, Constituted by y^e Gov^t. of grace

12, Are y^e Seed of y^e Righteous To whom blessings are
Promised in y^e Scripture, To be considered as Spoken
Of y^e natural Offspring of y^e Gospel Ch^h. Or
Are these blessings promised to y^e Seed of y^e Ch^h, even
such as are born when Zion Travileth - Isaiah 66 - 8 -

13, is not y^e Constitution of y^e Gospel Ch^h, Materially
Different from y^e Ch^h under y^e former dispensation: & y^e
So wherein does y^e Difference lay

14, What is y^e qualification made Necessary by institution
In y^e Primitive Gospel Day, in order To being admitted
To a visible standing in y^e Ch^h

Dear S^r these are some of y^e most material questions which I
desire To have answered, & if you are so engaged otherwise that
you cant answerem, be so kind as to put y^e Questions into
A proper modd^e (if you can Obtain by me a proper idea) and
send em To Mr. Helman of Boston; or Mr. Smith of Haverhill;
Or President Manning at Providence: if it possible I may
Have an answer thereto as soon as may be conveniently.
for I think y^e Difficulty in y^e minds of people is they dont see
the Type & antitype in their proper light, and are not yet
bro^t. To see y^e Some particulars under y^e former dispensation
To be figures which were Really so. Mr. Edwards in his humble
Inquiry, says y^e Gov^t. God made with Abr^m was a figure,
if people in general co^d be^e To see y^e now, they w^d see y^e. y^e
Ch^h is now constituted in a different manner, & by a different
Gov^t. so much as there is between shadow & substance
Now it looks inconsistent To me To suppose y^e Gov^t. of grace was
ever made with any mere man, but in ages past, did set up
particular persons who were figures of Christ, & this y^e Gov^t.
God was pleased To make with them, y^e Gov^t. of grace was repre-
sented & held forth To mankind - also y^e union Gov^t. or fed^e
Relation y^e. was constituted by them Gov^t. between y^e members

Dear Brother in

Albany March 27th 1781

The Gospel I Rec^d. Yours of the 3^d of this instant.
Rejoice to hear from you, & Especially that the work
of God goes on and prospers. O that according to your
Desire it may reach to us in this part of the land,
that the wilderness may blossom as the Rose, & become
accol with Gods praise. Dear Friend I hear that the
Mystery of Iniquity works marvellously, Towards ~~the~~
Albany & in sundry other places, & it is attended with
such a power that it carries away many, and spreads
to surprise, but this is one token that the coming
of the Lord is at hand, and altho it calls for watchful-
ness, yet we have reason to lift up our heads and
rejoice; for the Devil is a conquered Enemy, & altho
he is come down with great wrath, his time is short.
The lion and the lamb begin to ly down together, &
I imagin the Day of the Lord begins to Dawn, for I
believe the Day star rose Two Hundred years ago,
and within Two Hundred years to come, the Sun will
rise, even the Sun of Righteousness with his ~~be~~
benign Rays to dissipate the Dark Clouds that hang
over the nations of Earth. The veil of covering
on the several denominations of Religion is much
rent, & God has promised it shall be taken off.
The veil of prejudice, of bigotry, of ignorance, of
superstition, & lordly Dominion in the Ch^h &c &c
are so torn & rent, that people in general are in
their own minds much more at liberty to judge &
determine for themselves, than formerly.

At this day there is great contention and Disputation
among ministers of the standing order, both in
doctrine, & discipline, & sundry of their best
ministers of my Acquaintance, Evidantly have
as much fellowship with, & more Charity for the

* An account given by Elder Valentine Nathban of
Pittsfield, in print, lately Published at Norwich, which
will probably come to hand before these lines will, there-
fore I have not mentioned their Errors

~~The Baptists, that they have for many years~~
of their own order, and w^od ~~be~~ Rather have emp^oach
In their Desks, because They are sensible our Elders
Preach such Doctrine, as is soul Humbling, and God
Exalting, & so let us Rejoice that God Reigns, and
Exhort the saints To rejoice therein, for the Lord rides
In the heavens for the help of his chosen, and the rage
of men & Devils shant Destroy em, even them who are
built on the Rock Christ, for he is a rock his work
is perfect, so perfect y^t it has pleased the Father
that in him all fullness sh^od dwell, even all
we sinners, yea the chief of sinners, Dead sinners
Naked sinners, Solitud sinners, &c can want, and
their wants fully supplied, for Time & Eternity,
for they that Trust in the Lord shall want no good
Thing, & they that wait on the Lord shall renew
their strength &c, — Dear brother I have had a great
Desire To visit your part of the Country years ago, but
desire is much increased lately, but when providence
will open a Door for such a journey I know not,
but this privilege we have, being absent, can cor-
-verse by writing, & if God blesses may be mutual
helps To Each Other, I acknowledge my Neglect
Herein, — Ist this April coming is Two years
since you wrote me ^{an} answer To a letter I wrote To you
some Time before, altho I Did not Receive your answer
Til the Sept. following, & I wrote you a letter in part
Then & I w^od Transcribe that into this but it is too
Lengthy, therefore I here Give you Thanks for your
kind answer To my letter above mentioned.

Our Congregational Ministers in these parts
are forming an Association now, they Cant
Agree with the Presb^{er}ian association lately
formed here, for they, The Presb^{er}itians hold y^t
Children sprinkled are in the Ch^h, and under the
authoritive care & watch of the Ch^h & the others
Do

Do not, ~~it seems~~ ^{they} ~~are not~~ ^{are not} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~where~~ ^{where}
Abouts Baptized Children as they call em, are as to
Their Relation To the visible Ch^h of God, or where
Their Standing is, & this will always be the case
where men, or Societies of men proceed without
Divine warrant from ^{the} word of God in build^{ing}, or Dis-
-appling of Ch^hs, Their language will be confound-
-ed, Sir can you Tel how many languages those
That are building ^{the} label of Infant baptism or
Rather sprinkling speake in that perticular;
But I acknowledge they are Rather To be pitied &
Prayd for than Reproched, And I believe many are
honest & sincere Christians, & are come To mount
Zion, the City of the Living God &c —
If you Observe any thing ~~in~~ Too hard in the above obser-
-vations impute it to my infirmity, or be so kind as To
Admonish me as a brother therefor, for I hold many in
Charity of Other Denominations, & am willing To walk Together
as far as we are agreed, and I heartily wish a universal
unity of spirit among Christians, of Different Denomina-
-tions might take place, for it woud not only be for the in-
-crease of love, Charity, & other Christian graces, but of greater
freedom of Thot among all Denominations, To make the
word of God their rule wholly, in Judging of Doctrines, &
Principles, leaving persons and Characters ^{only} of the
Question, but all are not thus at liberty at this day,
but I think the fetters are loosening and yoke is brake-
-ing; — Sir I have a desire To know whether our
Denomination in your State is like To obtain their religious
liberty, or whether there has any thing new Turnd up
Since the last Association, I understood it was a resolu-
of the Association To send out To the people at large ^{in the state} To
Give their minds on that Subject. — I Desist, begging
your prayers for me, & the prayers of the Saints with you
for me that I may know my Duty, & have grace To do
the same, Dear Brother pray for us, & the Lord be with
you, —
from your Friend Jed^d. Hubbard

I can write but a line, & God Tougth

Jed^h. Hebbard;
Pete, Mar. 27, 1781.

Recd. Aug. 12.
J. B.

To

Isaac Backus

At

Middleborough

Mr

Worthy friend I have the much
Opportunity To write to you as Mr.
John Porter is waiting - I have not heard
from you Sen I sent you some quest^{ions}
with a desire for you To answer, or some
other mile person; I. want To hear
from you on that account - I. want
your second Column, & will satisfy you
therefore - I have a great Desire To see
your part of the Country am in hope
To make a Journey that way in the fall
But how providence will order I cant tel.

I have many things on my mind but I
have not time to write nor paper with
me, as I am from home - I. think
is with us a form of Religion among
us, but very little of it power, tho there
been something of an out pouring of
the Spirit at Windsor & Woodstock -
Except my kind love to you & brethren
with you, our Ch^h has (several of the
Principle members) moved away, which
has weakened our hands - I remain
your Brother in gospel Bonds
Lebanon July 28th 1779 - J. H. Hubbard

Dec^r. 11. 1862.

Cells July 28. 1879.

Dec. 11. 1862.

D. B.

See
Pete

Lebanon Feb^y 6th 1781

Dear friend I acknowledge
your repeted kindness and
give you thanks for the
minutes of the association
which I Received in a letter
from Mr. James Perkins
of Bridgewater. I think
I Rejoice in the plentiful
Harvest, & ingathering of
Souls among, & round a
bout you in the last year
you have cause of Joy,
while we have cause
of sorrow, & repentance
o that, Zion, may cry, &
Travel for Deliverance.
I can write but a line,
for I have no paper but
this. Subscribe myself
your affectionate friend
& Servt. Jed^d. Hubbard

Mr. James Perkins

Mr

To

J^h H. H. H. H. H.
Feb. Feb. 6. 1781

Rec. Feb. 19

J. H.

kind friend

Sept 27th 1731
Aug. 26th I rec^d. this week,

it came so late I could not answer your request
Relative To Dr. Wheelocke sermon, but will endeavour
to procure one & send to you as soon as I can;
I acknowledge your kind remembrance in your letter
Common, but I especially thank you for your
Repeated favours in the pamphlets & minits you
have sent me; think myself happy that I
can serve you in any thing; I have you
Ever seen Mr. William M. Ewen, on the
Types, if you never have seen it send me
Word, & I will send it to you, for I esteem
it to be a valuable piece, his ideas are clear,
his manner of writing is concise, his
Language is elegant, the book well worth
perusing. This Mr. M. Ewen was Minister
In Dundee in Scotland &c
Since my last There has been a wonderfull
appearance of Gods power & goodness in towns
Round about (viz) in Newsplit, the 2nd Town
from the River, there was hopefullly go souls
gathered in in one week, & now the work is
going on in Croyden a Town joining, also in
Windsor the west side of the River, & in
Woodstock, Pomfret, & Royalton.

The Lord work, & like the Spouse altho they sleep
their hearts wake, but O that Lion here might
travel that souls might be born to God, pray,
Brother pray for us, that God may appear for
our help, with shame I acknowledge I dont
do my Duty at home, or abroad as I ought.
Lebanon Decr. 1st 1791

The work of the Lord spreads & increases,
it is begun at Dresden the College society,
& Two conferences a week in College among
The Scholars, O; that it may reach poor
Lebanon. This morning I was reading
Pauls Explanation of The Types, & I cant but
mirel that people dont see the analogy of Type
& antitypes, 7 Chap 12 v, Pauls say, for the priesthood
being changed, there is made of necessity a change
also of the law; by which the Chh was constitu-
ted. for Christ Jesus being made a priest not after
The law of a carnal commandment, but after the
power of an Endless life, therefore Gods house is
Spiritual, & the sacrifices offered to God are spiritual
&c & in Chap. 2-14- is pointed out the necessary
cleansing of this spiritual house or Temple for
Gods Service, which answers to ceremonial
cleansing; for The Tabernacle and all the

The vessels of ministry were purged, purified, & made
clean by blood. (1st Cor. 14. 29.) ~~that have~~ ^{that have}
Thou & they only, whose sins are pardoned, ~~that have~~ ^{that have}
Solomon ~~to~~ To enter into holiest by the blood offering, ~~that have~~ ^{that have}
Therefore & To Draw near To God with a true heart
in full assurance of faith, &c. & Paul says in the
12. of the Spiritual Israel ye are come To mount
Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly
Jerusalem, &c, they are come there by virtue
of their love! Relation To Christ, & To Jesus
the mediator, for they are of his body, of his
flesh, & of his bone — but what can I say
or write in the compass of a short letter,
but this I can say we may wonder in time,
& admire in Eternity, astonishing, we have
ing such an high priest, we may Draw near To
god, what sinners Draw near To a holy God,
yeo brother, the Chief of sinners —
if Christ is our high priest our work is love &
praise, which will not end with our breath
nor begin in Eternity. — my kind love
To you & all inquiring friends, I remain
your brother in Gospel love, J. H. Hebbard

... me ungenerous, & O, that
blindness in part had not happened To

Prof. H. C. C. C. C.
Dec. 1. 1981

Prof. Dec. 13.

S. D.

Wm. B. B. B.

W.

Bridleburg

Lebanon Nov. 15th 1781

Dear Brother altho. light increases among us
as a people, yet Deprav'd Humane Nature is
~~in~~ the same in the unregenerate, & O, that
blindness in part had not happened To Israel
for altho there has been Columns written, and
much said To shew the Distinctions between
Civil & Ecclesiastical bodies, as well as their
Laws & Rules, yet the legislative body of the
State of Vermont have so far Established religion
in that State as To Oblige the Baptists To bring
in a Certificate To the authority of the Town
where they live or be Taxed for the Support
of the minister of the Standing ord.

O, that there was wisdom To count the number
of the beast; among those that hold the reins
of Civil government, — & aint it Strange That
Rulers are so insatiable To Touch Christ's Scepter
& assume his Kingly Office, & the people, that
they love To have their fear Towards God Taught
em by the precepts of men, for if I Do what
Christ has positively commanded, & yet the au-
thority I feel binding ~~me~~ ^{there} ~~me~~ is the Civil, I con-
sequently substitute the magistrate in that case

To
Mr. Isaac Backus

well as the will of the
my lord & law giver in Stead of Christ, & his
laws in Stead of x laws, therefore I am a rebel
against x in heart, ^{& malice} for I have given his glory
to another — & the civil legislator cant in-
force one of Christs positive laws by penalty.
But he Touches x Kingly office, — view it in
this light, I bid your Children they ought to
Obey you, & not go to Night unwilling (so far it is
will,) & I will punish you if you do, herein I
Step into your parental government, & offer give
you just offence, & wont you punish your
Child if he Does the thing you command him
if he Doth it for fear of punishment from me
feeling the force of my authority, not Yours.
So we may Take this matter into States, or
Kingdoms, for if one King attempts to in-
force the laws of another, by laws with penalty
he Takes his government — C. let the
Saints Rejoice for the late Reigns, & To him
every knee shall bow — Desire the prayers of
of Good people, I send my love to all Zions
Children, & Remain your brother in the best
Blessing

Jed^s. Hubbard

Edw. Hubbard
Nov. 15. 1788.

Feb. Nov. 25.

J. P. 3.

Widdowough

Elder Isaac Baehus

At

pt. pt. of Mr.
James Perkins

Dear brother

Lebanon May 9th 1783

I receive yours, together with the minute of the
association, ~~and~~ Accept my thanks therefor
I have sent you Book Wheelock's sermon
which you desired me to send long ago. I
procured one as soon as I could, & that I had
sent it to you, & a few days ago I came
across it among my books, I don't know
that it will be any service to you now.
as there has been a Revival of Religion a
mong us I am in hope of a Revival of
Discipline in y^e. Ch^h of the Standing order,
Several of y^e. Ministers of y^e. Standing order have
Declared y^e. ^{civil} magistrate has no right to in-
force any of y^e. ^{positive} laws of Christ, & if he at-
tempts to do it he touches Christ's Kingly
office — & wholly Disapprove of Ministers
support by civil law, for y^e. manner as
well as the matter of the Duty is Directed
by a positive law of Christ — also

P.S. I have been very unwell for y^e week, but am
now much better in health, my family is in a con-
fortable state of health. Thine, &c. &c. &c.

Wm Isaac Backus

Yours L^y & A^{ly} Nelson

also they say it is plain from scripture
 that brother shall not go by law with brother
 Mr. Burroughs of Hancover has wrote on y.
 Subject. but it has not come from y^{rs} press.
 I dont certainly know y^t it has gone to the
 press — Dear Brother God has raised up
 a very clear Gospel preacher in Canaan
 a Town joining to us, he is to be ordaind
 the 13th of Next month, he seems to be
 approv^d of by Christians of all denomen-
 tions. — There is an Association formd
 of the Baptist ord. here in y^r wilderness
 by the Character of Woodstock association
 of which youl hear more at y^r Next winter
 Association. — there is something of revival
 of Religion in some of our Towns, & some
 additions to our Chhs. — I shall
 obtain but a small Number of signers
 for your 2nd. Volumn, perhaps a Dozen.
 I am with real affection }
 your brother in Gospel bonds } Jed^d. Hubbard

Hebbard's Letter

May 9. 1483

Rec.

May 18.

J. B.

Wm. W. W.

W.

Wm. W. W.



Lebanon Oct. 11th 1784

Dear Brother

In general it is a Time of Desultion in Religion; but we have Reason To Rejoice in, God for he is carrying on a glorious work at The Creek Toward Lake Champlain, the last I heard six ^{ten} Towns were wonderfully visited with The out pouring of Gods Spirit -

And The Lord has visited Cockermouth so that there is very lately between 20. & 30. hopefull Converts; & the work has Reached the Next Town, these are Neighbouring Towns, & there is some appearance of Conviction in our Town.

Dear Brother let us Rejoice in God & his work; In these parts there is a great Struggle about Ch^h Discipline, & some have got so far that the world calls them Distracted, & say they will turn the world up Side Down, & they dont consider that then it will be Right Side up - Mr. Borough of Hanover a Town Joining To Lebanon Has Prolt a piece holding fourth the Spirit of the Ch^h; & the Spirit of Discipline; - I desire you To write me your Thot upon it, I can say I think it is an alarm from the walls of Jerusalem; - with these lines I send you the piece above mentioned,

and
ment with Mr. Remondy, Mr. W. & the Sentiment

After I dined with Mr. Borrough last Thursday
Night, I told him I intended to send you one of his
books, he Desired ~~me~~ that you w^d write a letter
to him & what you discovered in the price that
is not agreeable to Truth, without flattery
you would condemn, & if you ^{think} it is according
to Truth signify ^{it} in your letter

Mr. Borrough has a very clear understanding of
Doctrine of the Cross, & seems to be willing
take it up, & he has fellowship with the
Baptists, he has changed with Eld. Baldwin
of Canaan on the Sabbath, & the reason is as
he tells me is because the Baptists in their
Discipline honour Christs Laws, & Dont in so
Daring a manner Trample ^{on} Christs au-
thority — In great haste I write at this
time. — Desire your prayers for us, & wishing
Grace, mercy, & peace may be multiplied among
the Chrs. Most your Brother in Gospel Bonds

Eld. Isaac Backus

Jed. Hubbard

John Hubbard,
Oct. 11. 1787.

Rev. Nov. 4.

8. 13.

Dr. Isaac M.
Samuel Perkins

Middleborough

Elder Isaac Backus

Anne
July 25. 1785.

Dear B^r

Lebanon Feb^y 9th 1787

Reci^d Yours bearing Date Jan^y 28th

wherein You inform y^e you have made some
Remarks on M^r. Kimmels piece on The At-
tonement, I have not yet seen your Remark,
— I have Read M^r. Wests piece on The Attonement,
an Answer To M^r. Bacon, of The Sentiment
with M^r. Remersly, M^r. West has done
well, in General, — I have ~~also~~ Read M^r.
Smalley of Farmington on The Attonement,
And his ideas, are concise, and clear —
but I conclude we may Expect, in all these
writings of humane Authority, To find The
Number of a man. — I believe mankind
were never wiser To Do Evil, than at this Day,
but The power of The Beast is on y^e Decline —
& many are Troubled ~~thereat~~ at it, their
Good Religious Establishments are Shaking, &
altho they Desire The Day of The Lord, To them
it is Darkness & not light — much as it was when
The Lord came To his Temple, & set at naught all
their boasted Distinctions in ~~any~~ Religion —
for as There is an infinite Difference between
The Divine Character, (in The Moral view) & That
of The world, consequently y^e world will hate
That Character when brought into view —
when Christ came To Exhibit That Character, they
hated him, without a Cause

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to the above named subject. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,
 J. M. Smith

of Christe coming To Destroy The man of Sin
with the breath of his mouth. & the brightne

A Remarkable Event Took place in Clarmont
about 15 miles from my house. — one M^r. Law-
rence of Clarmont, a Ringleader of iniquity
was riding home in y^e evening of y^e fifth
of Jan^y last, late in y^e night, There appeared
a man in a flame of fire, passed a Cross The
Road about a rod before him; his horse Stopped,
A Voice saluted him Thus, Return, Return,
Thy calls have been Repeated; Thy companions
will be Thy Ruin; — Then The 22 Chap of Ezekiel
Prophecy was named, & every verse was repeated.
by that time he had Rode home 4 or 5 miles, he
was in Great anguish of spirit. — it is hoped
by the brethren it will have a lasting effect on
his mind & heart — The above account
I heard him Relate about 10 Days after it hap-
pened, in y^e Close of an Evening meeting at
Clarmont, & he appeared solemn —

The Lords way is in y^e Great Deep, in wisdom
he Rules, & Does all his pleasure —

El^d. Ransom has Returned into our parts a-
gain, To his people, at their Request —

M^r. Nipley one of the Tutors of Dartmouth
College, & Son in law To D^r. Wheelock, was
mortally hurt by falling out of a Hay on
Sabbath Evening about 3 weeks ago, & Died
Next morning. — I Remain your
unworthy D^r in y^e Gospel J^d. Hubbard

Feb. 8. 1784
Hobbs, 16th.
Rec. July 4

S. 13.

Eliza Jane Barker

At

Middleborough

Bay State

Jan 13th

Lebanon Feb. 28th 1787

I Received Yours Dated Jan. 1st 1787
Accept Your Love, & Kindness - I am Glad To
see Your Opinion on The Atonement - I
have carefully perused Mr. Hemmicks Ser-
mons on The Atonement, There is many good
Ideas, but if I understand him, I Dont agree
with him, in Three particulars.

But I Trust, Thro' The Guidance of Divine
Providence These writings Shall Terminate
in The good of The Chh; as well as Gods Glory, -
Many Shall Turn Too, & so, & knowledge Shall
be increased. - I have Read Mr. Wests piece on
The Atonement, I think he has Reflected light.
also I have a Sermon of Mr. Smalley's on The
Atonement very well done in general. -

May we ^{not} conclude That The inventions of
The Children of men were never more prevalent,
And Their minds more fertile in Error, and
Delusions Then at This Day, The very Signs
of Christs coming To destroy The man of sin,
with The breath of his mouth, & The brightness
of his appearing. The Decrees of God Not on
undisturbed in The midst of all The Errors,
& abounding of iniquity in This Day when
Self is Exalted, I hope To its height, & That
Self may be abased, & God Exalted

Informs you before now ~~and~~ how The affare

[The page contains several paragraphs of handwritten text, which is mostly illegible due to extreme fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. The handwriting appears to be cursive.]

I have wrote letters To Eld. Hunt heretofore & I have Reciev^d no answer from him. I Don't know if he has Obtain'd y^e letters I sent him, I sho^d. be Glad To hold a correspond with B.^r Hunt — Dear B.^r is there^{not} Danger That our brethren in the Ministry in your parts being so popular, as to step aside from Gospel Simplicity for if I please men I am not The Servant of Christ, says The Apostle —

is there not Danger of The Gifts being shut out as to The improvement thereof, as to The improvement of The Gifts, says Prof. Usher Hyde Shewme a Ch^h whose Mouths are Muzzled, & I will shew you a Dwarf — I believe The head of The Ch^h has bestow'd Gifts enough for The use of The Disfiguring of his body in love; but are they faithfully improv'd., may verily — I hope our Eld^rs. & Ch^hs will not make a Ministers, nor prevent The improvement of Gifts bestow'd. —

I Remain your fellow Labourer
In the Gospel Jed^d. Hubbard

Eld. Isaac Backus

Informed you before now ~~so~~ now the affair was — it is a ~~sin~~

Rec^d. July 7.
Elder Isaac Backus

Widdisborough

Lebanon June 9th 1807

Dear B^r.

I Rec^d. Your letter in which you
Desire to know whether your piece in an-
swer to M^r. Kemmelis piece is like to be
printed here; I Expected M^r. Baldwin had
Informed you before now ~~in~~ how the affair
was — it is Dear Getting any thing printed
in these parts — concluded it w^old be much
cheaper to let it printed at Boston. —

Dear B^r. I have but a minute to write, B^r.
Lee is waiting now — I cant write
about Ch^h for State — it is a Time of
health in General — a Time of Slumber-
ing & Sleep — Some ~~new~~ mourn in
Lion — Some Tokens for good from
a broad — Love to Brethren in your
parts — Kind Regards to M^r. Backus,
Subscribe myself your B^r. in Gospel
Bonds,

Jed^h. Hubbard

M^r. Isaac Backus

Hebbards letter

June 9. 1787.

Recd. July 4.

J. L. 23

Dear B^r. Lebanon June 5th 1789 ~

~~God is punishing & God is rewarding~~
he is trying his people with mercies, &
Judgments — we are Threated with Plau-
guish of Teeth in these parts, & westward —
& yet The Lord is carrying on his work by
his Spirit — adorning his Chh. — Separating
it from the world — numbers have lately
been baptized in these parts — also iniquity
abounds — The Lord Jehovah, will Do all his
pleasures, & his voice therein, To his people
is, prepare To Meet Thy God —

happy They who have their Garments
unspotted by the flesh — & q^d. Sight —

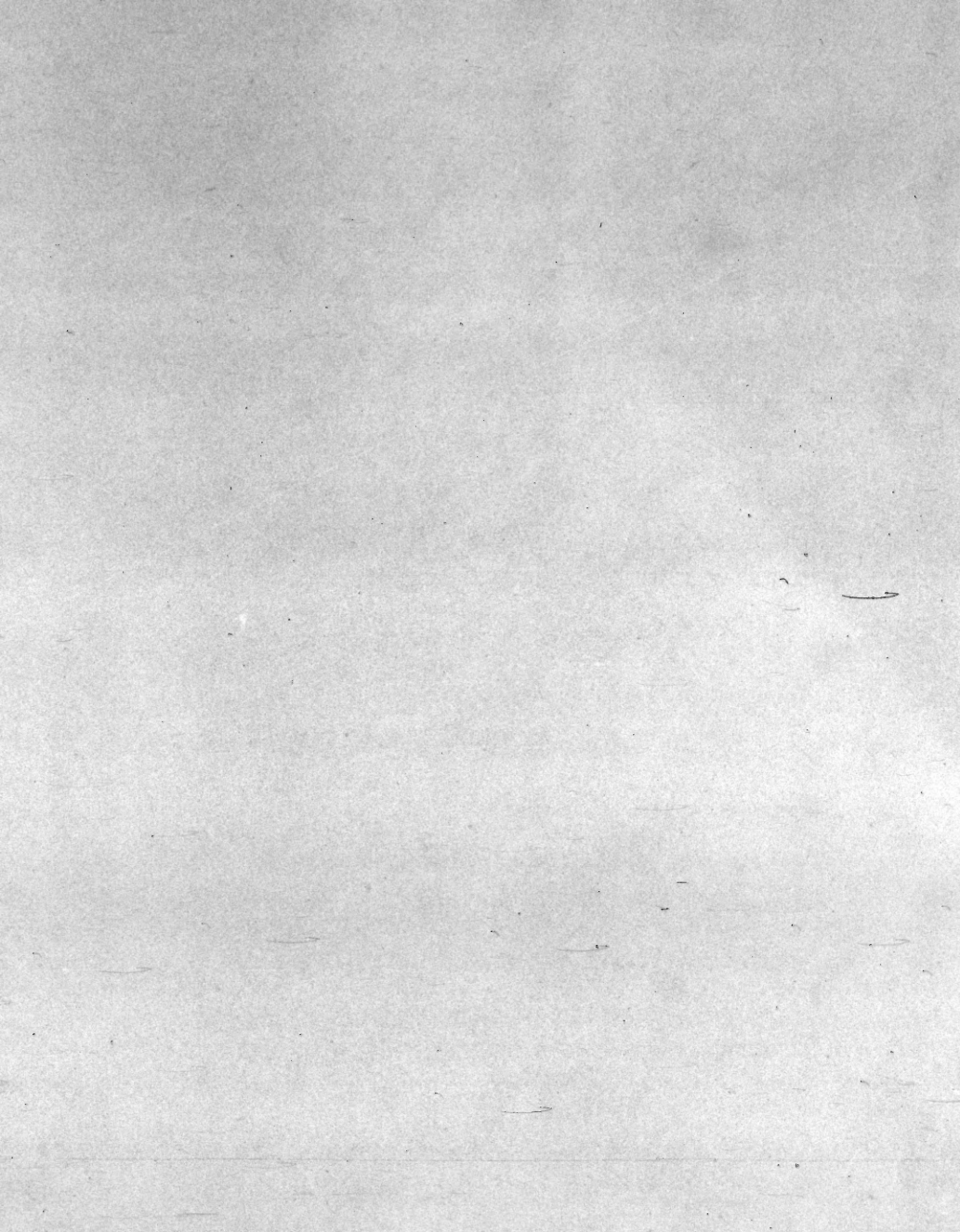
The first Day of this instant June
I saw B^r. Baldwin, he inform^d he has
a part of your pamphlets on hand, a part
he has sold, but has no safe opportunity
To send the ^{money} as yet — Give my kind
Regards To M^{rs}. Backus altho: I never saw her
— love To Zion — beg your prayers —
Rest yours B^r. in Gospel Bond, J^{os}. Webb

Jos. H. Hobbs,

June 5. 1789.

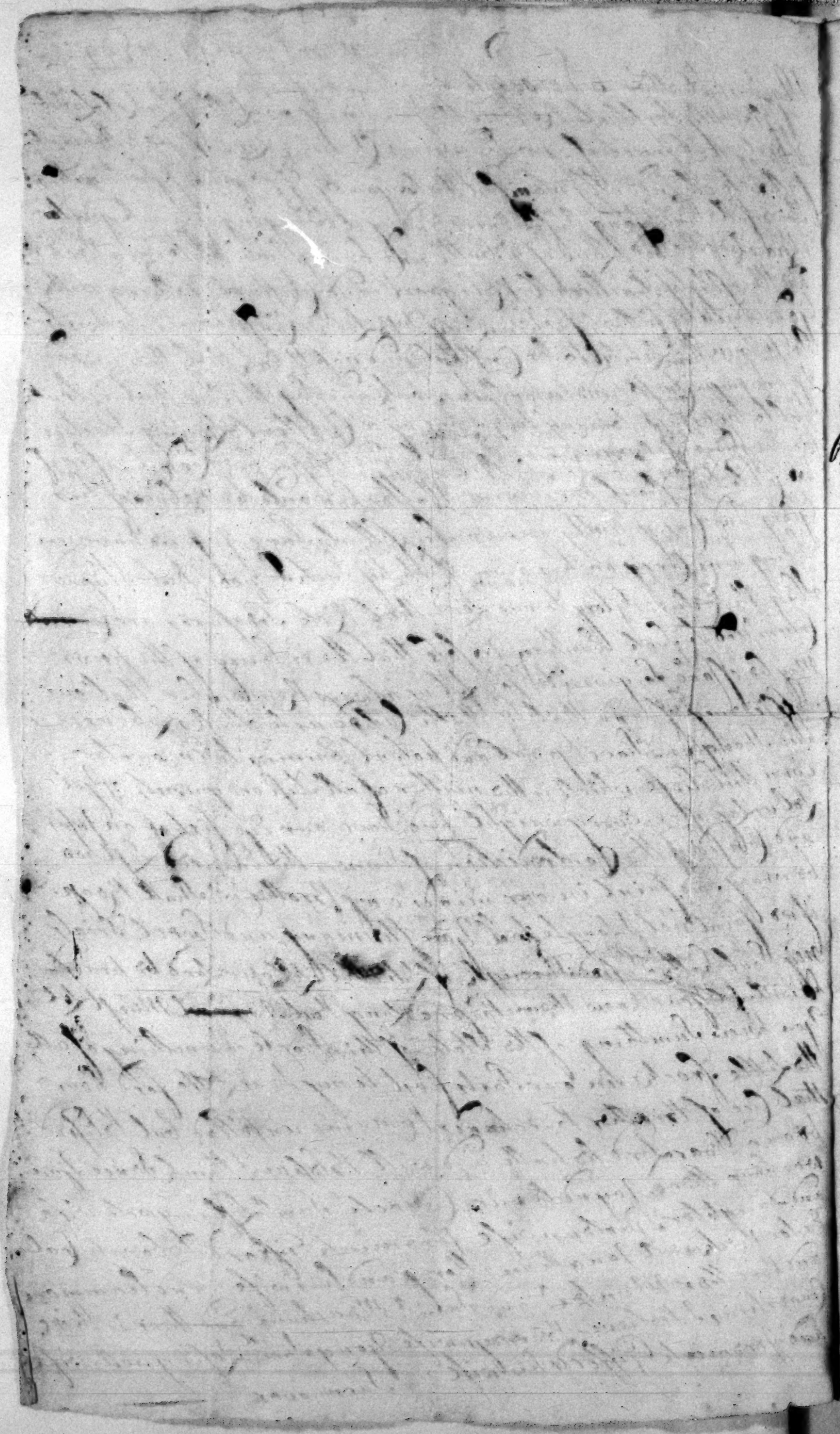
Recd. June 25.

S. M.



This was writ April 17 1749

Dear Brother Norwich
After My Personal Regards to you and your little flock of Lambs
Wishing the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ & Love of god & Heavenly
to do abundantly manifest Unto you by Gods Holy Spirit in his
wonderfull Sanctifying Influences. And by bringing you into greater
Knowledge and Love of god Truth and bring you all to be a Good
Necessity of Practicall Religion and Constant Walking with
god and to witness for him my D^r Let us Consider our work is to
be upon the Lambs to be constant and not think that their words
are my witness men only to speak and say this or that is truth
to bear a testimony to god by a Constant Living Practice
the same. D^r our work is great and blessed be god for if
god do without our Divine Master he would be Robber of his
right and consequently our souls of that Pure joy we have in
him. Pray on his own Work by such a poor dul Stupid
Gifted Glory to our Lord that Rich Treasures are com-
mitted to such Weak and foolish that the Economy of the power
be of god so given to god. Let us always Remember that our
Calling is and that he hath called us to these Labours
Though we have great and potent Enemies to Encounter
in Unbelief which is the mother of all Discordments. Yet
let us lay aside every waight and have our Eye fixed on Jesus
Consider the Contradiction of Sinners the Endured Left
weary and faint in our minds, O my Brother we shall Reap
and faint not I long to tell you the many and Sweet Trials
your Soul hath passed through of late but let our Lord be praised
will tell you know them before long but I must let
you know something of the State of this People. Something of all
the little flocks in our Parts first to my Dear Little god dear
Face of Brother Purchard Remains unfilled but blessed
our Dear Lord he hath and will bless us I think since you
brought these Joynd to our Church Sam^l Lefringwells wife
daughter. Gorton, wife Jordoniah Gifford Deborah Cal-
in Rockwell Jonathan More and his wife and Hammon
Brother Mansel and Sam^l Mouchum and there is three more
Conversions I believe Barnays wife Yonge Lam Lefringwells wife
Jordoniah Gifford's wife Sam over



There is yet some Sweet agreement & some Refreshings from & Presence
of the Spirit was at Lime this winter and Colchester and we had some
Several meetings but Great Trials in Every Church our Soul
at Lime was worn but our Dear Brother Fuller is really afraid
of spirits this antinomian are so much in his eye that he is
afraid of the Truth there is a Report that he talks of leaving
his People but I hope not True that he Con John Lord is much
brought off from his old ways as for Stonington B. Smith
hath for some Time denied to administer among them and
now hath concluded to turn to Mansfield and proposed so
far as to sell all Stonington and hath bought at
Mansfield but the Church Unanimously against his going
at Mansfield at present there is two Churches Hoop and market
one in one town in the other (Canterbury have had trials
with & several antinomians and are still in them in some
Measure Your Friends are all well as Common I think
I proposed to give a larger account but the young woman
is now waiting I must hint at things I feel very sickly
Time now among us Joseph Port Lyon at a point of death
and some others Joshua very low his Son lost work very
suddenly pray for me more by this opportunity If you can
at Large and do remember me by paper to all the Churches
in your parts tell them I long to hear from them & my
Brother what we had a glorious Day yesterday but all
must forbear I remain your Brother in the
Dear Love Good night

* This man died while I was at
Norwich about a week afterwards
Isaac Backus

Do

Mr

Isaac Buckner

at Bridgewater

Apr. 17. 1750

Recd. of Mr. Buckner
Letter Apr 14 1749

This Letter
was brought
by Alice
Cassell

Received of Mr. Buckner
the sum of 1000

Very Dear Brother

Norwich October 2nd 1730

I joyed in an Opportunity to write a few Lines to you to let you know
the Good Things are among us respecting Zion and first I would Give
a Some Hint Concerning My own Case. I have been in a Close Struggle
with I see you and it was so Hot that I wily thought for a while
that I should renounce the work. I found my heart full of the boldness of
the Power of God to Carry me through the Trials I see coming into the Door
of God and to my Brother to tell you the Truth the most Moving of all
is this the Dear Saint, in whom is all my Delight was all against me
that they were all a saying with my wicked heart that he is a going
Call from the work and Not one prayer for me from Heaven but blessed
to Dear Lord he did pray for me and God heard him as he always doth and gave
such Marvellous Deliverance. by leading me down into my own Soul to En-
quire why I should have so many Trials more than any of the Lambs and
show me that he was Sinned in all Things like unto us that he might
show how to suffer those that are Sinned and I did see that there was a
Necessity for us to know the Trials of the Dear Lambs and the Dear
Lord really gave me to Invite all the Dear Lambs to Come with all their
Hearts and Souls into my Bosom and I felt Perfect Release and I
think I can say I have felt such Deliverance and Salvation in all my Life
the Strength I saw in the Covenant my Dear Brother I long to see you to
tell you the wonders that God hath wrought for me a vile worm but what do I
tell you as better felt than Expresses but I must forbear now. I don't
think those Things to Disturb you but to Encourage you to Look to our Lord
who alone is able to help you and I through but I must go on to Tell
something of the work of our God among us the Lord hath wrought Marvellously
near and made large additions to the Church: there is now a Great Door open
the Landing: a spirit of Conviction is poured out there. There is many things
to write but I will not admit but a few Things more Jacob Backus his wife
is now Sick with the Long fever but is a most Recovered But her Soul is
brought into Marvellous Liberty and Gospel and something further Concerning
Brother Paine and Burdett I have had Letters from them and the work of
God is glorious with them when they write they say on Long Island and 10 or 11
were converted and 30 at a time crying out Under Convictions Brother Paine
is he never see the work so Great as to Degree in all his Travels Come my
Dear Brother don't Give out the Battle is ours the Conquest is won we shall be
victorious and more than so through him that hath Led us and
born him self for us Turn over

Now my Dear Brother be ware of a Negativing Spirit that Saith I
Dont see this and I Dont see that that is the Sower of Discord and Do
mark it for an Enemy and see it come along in this Type I Dont see
mind when I Do see thou art in walk. Do you see some times it begins with
I Dont think I can pray with out faith and then Prayer is let alone till
faith comes again I Dont think my Baptism valid for I was a Child and
in Unbelief. Therefore I must be Baptized again and then next marriage
is an Institution of God and I never was married in faith and therefore
not at all and so goes to all manner of Iniquity Now I think I can say I
Have been led to see in some Measure the Enemy this mystery of Iniquity
Now Do you take Notice of this Creature and you will find it a cunning
Disputant. tis that Knowledge that suffeth up. Now my Brother what
I Recommend to you is that you shall see the Law and that by the Enaligy of
~~the~~ Scriptures and the Nature of a Covenant and knowing that where
the Lord speaks he brings Charity and Love and of mind to be as God
Speaks in Romans 14 Let not him that Eateth Despise him that Eateth
Not and let not him who Eateth Not Judge him that Eateth
for God hath Received him but I must forbear till I can see you but
Bearing your Prayers and the Prayers of your Dear little friends and
Recommending you and them to the Grace of God Through our Lord
Jesus Christ I Subscribe myself your Brother and fellow Labourer in
Gospel of our Dear Sweet Lord Jesus

Jedidiah Rice

P.S Your Friends are well as Common I wrote with a fall the other day
that for a little while I am as if it would Carry me home
but Blessed be my Lord I was spared and am in a considerable Degree
Recovered but something lame still

J.H

Bridgewater Oct. 13. 1758

This evening I Received this
Letter Isaac Backus

Oct 10 1758

Received

To the honorable Mr Ised Beakus reverent
elder and pasture and teacher of the first
thruuk in midleborah Honoble Sir friend
father and brother in isrel these Lines are
to let you know that I am well at present
Hoping these Lines will find you and yours
So. grace mercy and peace to you and
to your Church and to all the churches of
our blessed Lord Jesus Christ

I would be ~~glad~~ glad if you would
come and see this people and me

I have ben with this people for 9
lords days and wuld sum weakly metings
and they desire that I would stay with
them still no limmit of time let
there is hear a leary congregation of
people which do attend here constantly
and doth still increas and I would
Humbly pray you to com down here as
In as you could as I have had sum
~~intimation~~ intimation you and you are
a father in isrel I trust by the grace
of god I would be glad you would be here on
lords day and send me a letter when ~~you~~

111

you will cum and see me and this people
and give sum advice forged in His Holy
Providence Has Strange ly introduced
me to com and speak to this people
Lune To seem to be concerned for this
Sole emmortals well here and I ~~to~~ ^{will} hope it
essue in the faith of crist our
blessed lord So no more at present
But I remane your loving frind
and brother in Christ Abia Hinds

Pembroke July ye 2 day
1786

Abia Hinds's letter.
July 2. 1786
Recd. July 5.
J.B.

I would Hue you remember me to my
frinds and to all that i am aquainted
With Heare

First day fortnight at
two o'clock July 5.
Pembroke

Dear Sir

I am very sorry that I have not
had any opportunity of writing to
you before now. I have tryed
my good time after time for
the £ 354:0:0 but he has not
had it in his Power to pay the
money, neither can I get any other
Person to let me have ^{the} money
I am very sorry that I am so much
trouble to you, but if you can
send me the remainder of the
money to Deacon Freeman, the
first opportunity I shall be very
glad. I Delivered your letter to Mr
Stillman, but he was afraid he
would not be able to get your
Price in the Press. My compliments

ive sum advice forgot in 4000

Heath, Hinckley
Petter, May 5. 1780

Recd. May 8.

9. 23.

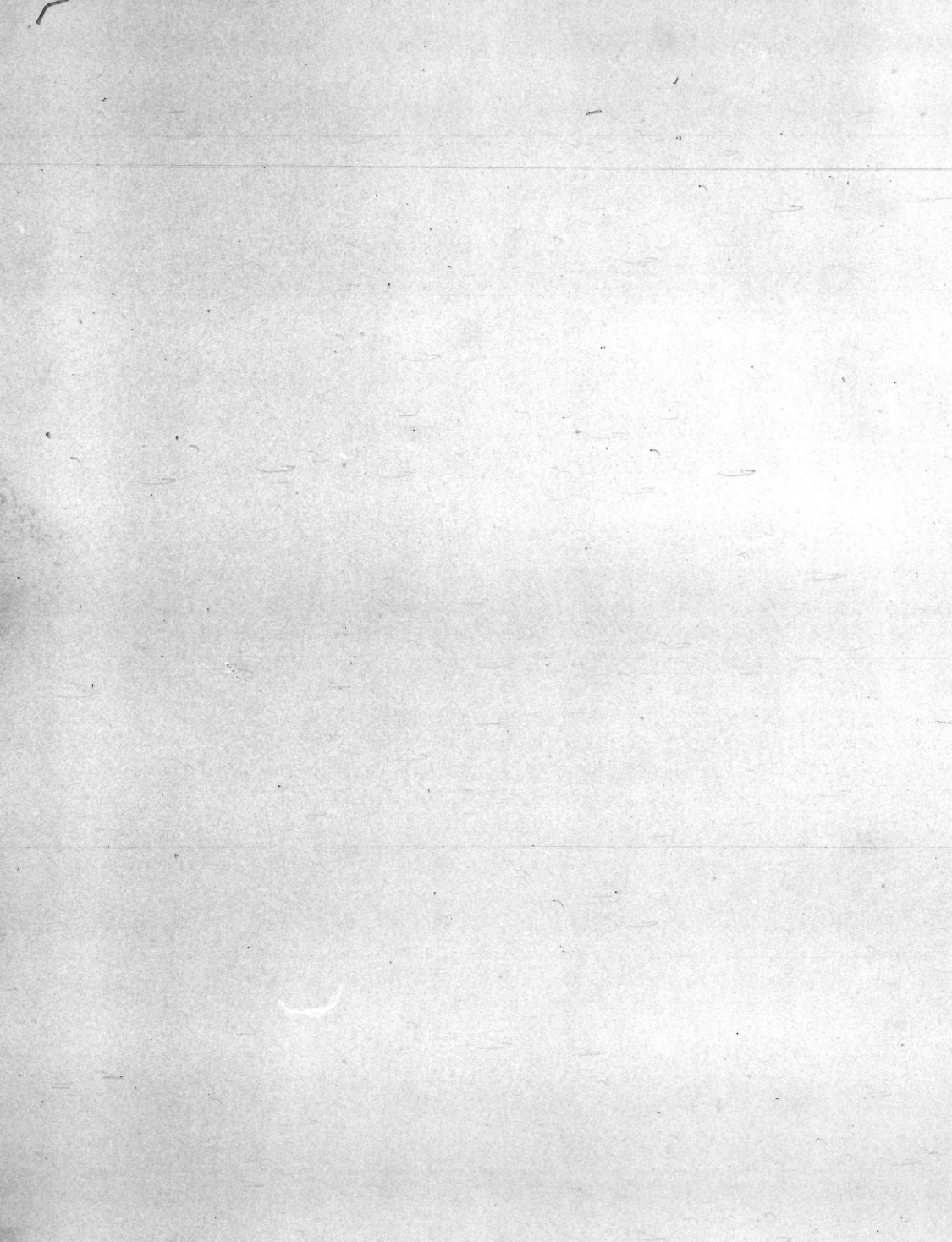
To all your family, I am Sir
with Respect yours

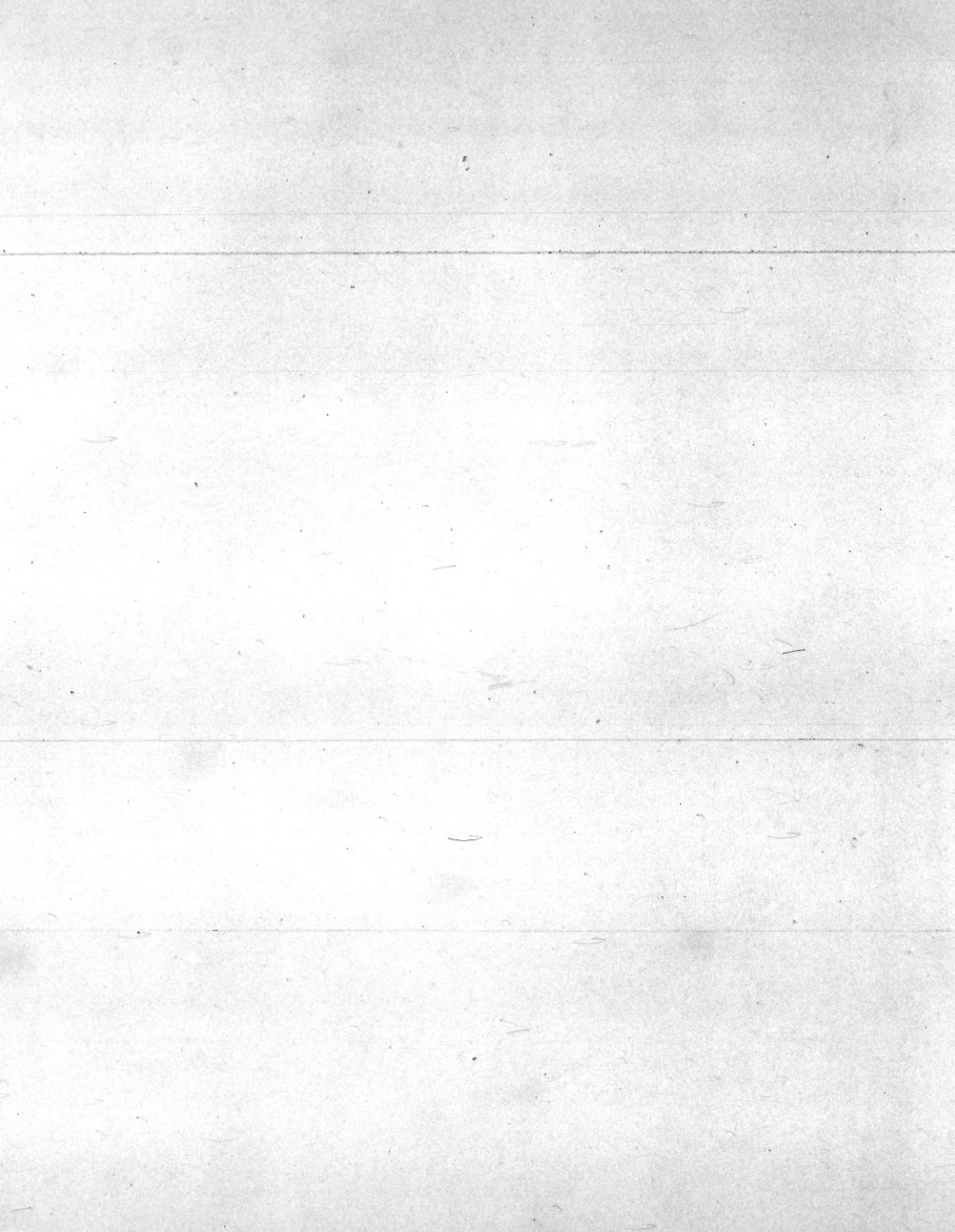
John Hinwill
Boston 5th May 1780

Q. Lewis

Mr Isaac Backus

Middleborough





Toronto June the 6th 1797

Dear Sir, I Received a line from you this Day dated
May the 30th 1797. Which informed me of your
being prevailed upon to Visit the people at Rogusar
the third Sabbath in July on Conditions of my being
at your meeting ^{show} on s^d Day.

I feel disposed to Comply their Will if the Lord
will and Wish for you to Attend a Lecture in the week
at the Long plain as I expect their meeting-
house will answer to meet in by that time
Also it would be very Agreeable to my people to
hear you at meeting house —

If you could attend at the plain send a line to Deacon
write as you pass to Rogusar and He will appoint
the time.

Yours in Gospel Bonds

Daniel Hild

Daniel Hicks,
June 6. 1799.
Rec. June 29.
J.B.

Middleborough
in
Joseph Jackson
To

unt

These with my Unfeigned Regard, to you and yours
all Inquiring friends, hoping These will find you well as they
we me and mine Through the kind providence of God
Rec'd a Letter from you some time ago Desiring me to give
some Information of the Death and burial of Mr Island
which I shall do with Pleasure as Correct as I Can -

12. c. 1778.

Did In Sept but I being Ignorant of his Death went to the house
at Spring Inquiring for him but no body could give me any In-
formation where he was ~~at~~ Lost being admitted In to the Chamber Where
woman was and after some hours spent In Conversation she told
he was with God and went on to tell me the Circumstances of his
Death or Change Lost In the Evening he seem'd something altered
in what he cou'd had been but behaved with Calmness and Serenity
before to this went down below and wash'd him self as was
usual for him to do and In a smiling way said to Mrs Cooper
Nabay The Lord hath done with me and I have completed
the work he sent me to do but don't be scart for I am a-
going but don't bury me for the Time is very short God is a com-
ing to take the Church. He went up stairs and kneel'd Down at the
head and prayed Very Extensively In particular for the hundred &
thousand and concluded with these words father I am but
a lowly will and Rise up and Lay Down on the bed and after
a few minutes the woman perceiv'd he breathed the Common Spirit
the door and call'd the folks be low but he never spoke to any
but expired In shortly his body was Inlaid In the one corner of the
chamber in a long white box covered with Lime and there remained
until next July and then removed to a corn field and buried
This is the Exact account as I heard it from the woman and Mrs
Cooper and a number of others which was present

Ashbornham May ye 18 1778 from your friend Isaac Golden

I remain your friend & humble servt

Nov. Aug. 26.
8. 73.

Isaac Hildes
+
Wm. of B. H. Hildes.
Aug. 28. 1784.

To Doct
Isaiah Parker
In Harvard
These

Dear Sir.

This little New Year's willing
(I trust through grace) gift unto

God I commit into your hands
to dispose of as he sees fit or as he
shall direct.

David Hollis.

David Hollis

Jan. 1. 1806.

. Recd. Mar. 16. —

J. B.

To the Rev,
Isaac Backus,
Middlebury!

Providence February 7. 1776

W^{ro} & Dear Sir These inform you of
our Wellfare through Gods goodness You
must doubtless have heard of the happy
revival of religion amongst us which is
matter of great joy and praise to God

With much difficulty I have obtained and
perused 3 or 4 old records in our Town
Clerks Office and extracted some va-
luable materials which I know not
whether ever were before published
amongst which are this following
1st to the Bay for their treat
yth Clarke respecting Quakers. See
I find Maps Withams alive in
January, 1682: 3 &c &c &c

The extracts I would have sent but
remember you said you expected to see
us & that this Winter conclude to
wait your coming amongst us which
I hope will be soon in great

Love and Affection
Remain your Friend & humble Serv^t
David Hoell

David Hoell
Pella, Ia. Feb. 9. 1978

Dec. Dec. 12
9. 73

Phillipsburg Sept. 3d. 1804

Recd. and dear sir, through the tender mercy of God I was guarded on my journey after I left you. I preached a number of lectures on my way home: six days before I arrived at the end of my journey I ^{was} taken quite unwell, and arrived at Salem from Wednesday till the next Friday: Friday evening I delivered a sermon; on the Lords day I was so feeble in the forenoon I was obliged to set down before I had finished my discourse; in the afternoon I revived a little and was able to deliver a short discourse: Monday I pursued my journey and made but very little tarry till I arrived at Phillipsburg; the people had been looking for me with earnest expectation. I found to my great satisfaction the Lord had been carrying on his glorious work among them; many were much awakened; a number had been regularly converted. it young men about

Sir by your favor I rec^d your paper. I think what is taken in the Edwards's Book about the Quakers in getting the aster ought to be buried in oblivion as ever we will take all the Gregorians in the interest of the College & nothing to our honor or advantage but rather disfigure it to Mr Manning and altogether respects the Quakers as suspicious. I am of individuals whom it is not interest to offend for nothing. Last evening I met Mr N. Brown who said he was sorry that you intended to publish the 1st Volume in these turbulent times when scarce any body had time to attend anything to this affair or even to read it with relish if I wished he would see you to ~~publish~~ postpone it until fall next at least. but in this I do not even advise I think you right to make two volumes if materials enough offer: which I doubt not but you will

1891 Jan 22

I have been thinking of you
very much lately and wondering
how you are getting on. I hope
you are well and happy. I have
been very busy lately but I
will try to write you more often.
I am sure you will understand.
I have been thinking of you
very much lately and wondering
how you are getting on. I hope
you are well and happy. I have
been very busy lately but I
will try to write you more often.
I am sure you will understand.
I have been thinking of you
very much lately and wondering
how you are getting on. I hope
you are well and happy. I have
been very busy lately but I
will try to write you more often.
I am sure you will understand.

sixteen years old was baptised last Sunday
and expects a number more will soon offer
themselves to the Church: it is expected a Church
will soon be constituted in this Town.

Among adjacent Towns there is good attention
to the word of the Lord. Eld. Simon Leach has
baptised a number the summer past.

Sir, I would inform you that I sent the
subscriptions to Buxton, Chardell, and Lynton.
tomorrow I expect to collect them, and convey
them to Elder Henry Smith who is one of
our messengers to the Warren Association,
and give him directions to convey them to you.

Dear sir I hope you and yours are very well.
I shall now expect a letter from you.
Give my best respects to all your family.

With sentiments of esteem I am your unworthy
yet most affectionate brother in the faith
of the Gospel
Timothy Hodgson

Rev. Isaac Backus

Timothy H. Odell
Sept. 3. 1864

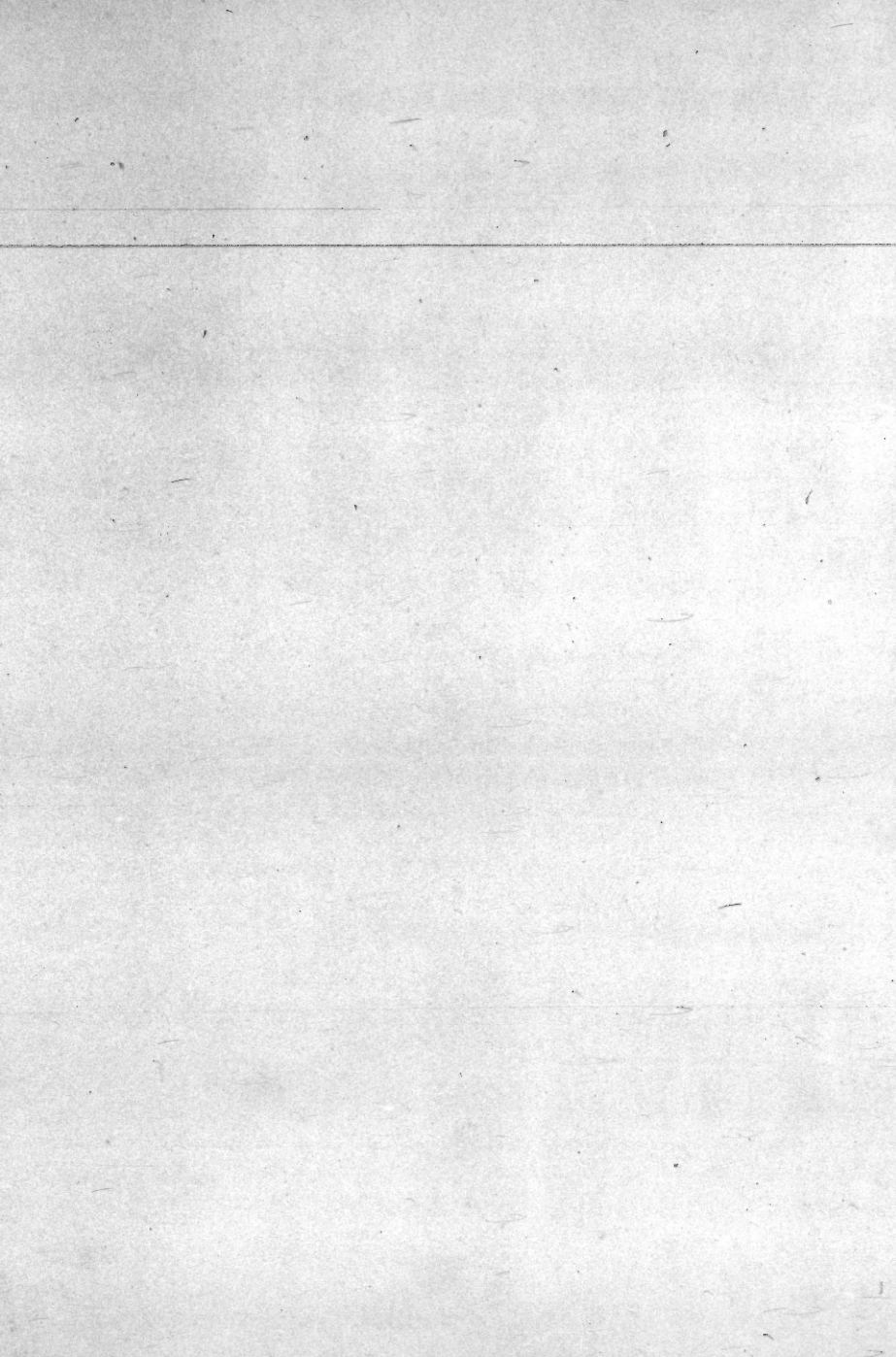
Rev. Sept. 4. '64

Pres. Charles D. Perkins

Madame

I conclude I have leave to show your papers
to any judicious friends here it is likely we shall
make some short preface to the Charter
after it give some outline of the present state
of the College but I would by no means have
Mr Manning's & several's injudicious illna-
-tured reflections in your History. mentioning
names of persons living is a very delicate point.
you must be sensible, & if there is any honor in sup-
porting this affair of a College that I know to
be due to ^{the} Mr Eaton in the person since deceased
& rev Mr Edwards & Philadelphia Association

A line from Mr David Hoar of Providence April 18. 1995



ber 20 1778

I have been favoured with the perusal of the letter you have sent me for Mises known lately as well as some other names written on it. I am mistaken in your supposition that I had an interview with you. I am much obliged to you for the notice you have taken of me in some respects you had misrepresented them. I find also a misprint made by them of a general form of retraction to be also misprinted by you printed & rattled in front of your S. Vol. to which the letter is chiefly refers.

the may 1778

If it is agreeable to your mind to make one general retraction for the present, I should think that form might not be well with some small alterations & omitting all the latter part. There is the ages are enumerated, & I have reason to think the friends is greatly before this matter settled without public altercation that they would consent thereto. I have no predilection to this form. I suppose you, I was not consulted in drawing it, I never saw it till after it was sent to you. When I made some objections & predicted its date — your objections are somewhat different from mine & such as, in my opinion, have equal force against any general form of retraction. And should that be your intention, only to retract in some specified particulars & at the same time to rectify them, which would no doubt be more satisfactory to the public, I would wish you had said it expressly in your letter, which would have kept friends no longer in suspense on that point but put them on the immediate necessity of producing their list of particulars for your examination, which I understood they have nearly read, that so the uncertainty might be removed that way.

may find as well as the will inform you that the acquiring what they what he has done for Rivers to the in all shall have thought of to serve that

Since you have gone so far in this matter some of your best friends there with to me it concluded, if possible, to the satisfaction of that society I hope reparation has been unintentionally injured I think it highly concerns you to endeavour to discover & multiply the truth of these matters to the world. It is the mean time as far as possible to prevent people being prejudiced by reading you saying against a society troubling matters either of fact or principle. Whereof you are now convinced they are innocent.

That ing you should be glad you would appoint time & place to meet the Committee of Friends again soon that all misunderstanding may be removed & a happy issue obtained of your mutual endeavours of the truth & righteousness.

I hope you will excuse my boldness in writing to you so freely on this subject, I assure if you I mean it well however it may be accepted. I presume not to dictate — but I should be glad you would appoint time & place to meet the Committee of Friends again soon that all misunderstanding may be removed & a happy issue obtained of your mutual endeavours of the truth & righteousness.

an and o

With best regards to your wife & family, I subscribe, Sir,

an and o

Providence Oct. 20. 1780

your friend & humble servant S. Howell

Nov. 21. 1780.
I enclosed this and a printed
to meet the Publick Committee of
Nicholas Bristow been in conference.
p. 23.

D. Hoek's letter
Oct. 20. 1780.

Recd. Nov. 14. 1780.

The Rev. Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Dear friend and Brother hoping these may find
you & yours well as we thro the Goodness of God are
all except father & he is very low and weak
I hope you will excuse my Boldness in writing
but I cant but let you know Dear friend that
I have a great Regard to the Dear Saints of God
and trust there has Ben something of the work
and movings of the Spirit of God of Late to be
seen among us and trust I desire that God who
has the hearts of all in his hands will not leave us
without a witness so with my husband
Barnstable we remain your loving friends
March 28 1771 Sarah Holmes

P. I trust you will Remember farther in your
Prayers that God will Lift up the Light of his
Countenance in his Soul that he may leave
the world with Joy I Dont much Expect
that he will be Raised to health & gain

Sarah Noble
 Letter Mar. 29
1791

To
 The Reverend
 Isaac Backus
 at
Middleborough

1	2	3	4
5	5	10	18
5	3	9	0

Received, Boston 1791
 Mar. 29. 1791.
 Recd. April 1.
 1791.

Barnstable May

1778

W^m Backus Sir

I make bold to write to you and ^{hope} that these may find you as well as they
through the goodness of god they leave me Sir I will inform you that the
Lord is still to work here in this Place some are inquiring what they
all do to be saved others are Praising the Lord for what he has done for
our souls Six souls of trust has been sadly wrought upon since you was here
so that it may spread from sea to sea and from the Rivers to the
ends of the earth, when will that happy day Come when all shall have
the Lord and his name be one through the earth I have often thought of
telling you what in my ^{dearest} ~~dearest~~ ^{dearest} letter that it was as good a time to serve
the Lord as ever any Christian had a and I find it the best time that
I new in all my Life but alas how short do I Come in searching
the Lord for it seems as if no body Come so short as I do yet I know
is my desire to live more devoted to the service of god then I do but
myself I can do nothing oh Sir if I could but get read of sin if
I was as if I should be happy but it is what I never expect as long as I am
in this imperfect state but I trust shall some day get where all sin and
imperfection will be done away where I shall not sin against such an
infinite holy god as now I do but then I shall be led to fountains of
living water and gods me soft hand wipe away all tears from our
eyes then we shall be singing Redeeming Diving Love for ever and ever
is will they
father and mother and aunt Lovell all send their regards to you
and they would be very glad if you could see it to be your duty to Come
in and visit us Sir I should be very glad if you would grant me
your favour that is to send me the Copy of them verses that you said
to Mr Lovell Concerning writing on Learning
so having no more to write I must conclude Praying to
god that He Crown your Labours with Success for his dear
in Christ these from your Unworthy friend Sarah Holmes

P.S. I hope Sir you will not think it amiss in writing to you
and I should be very glad if you would forgive all the wrongs
that you do find in this poor letter of mine

my dear brother

To
Elder Isaac Backus
minister of the gospel in
Middleburgh

I sent an
answer to thy
letter of the
29th I heard
by thy dear
brother at my
place at
Middburgh
July 29. 1778.
J. B.

Dear Sir,
I have received
thy letter of the
29th May. 1778.

Recd June 9.
J. B.

Barnstable November 20 1795

your's of July was very acceptable tho' unworthy
if I could adopt that Language to myself
hear ye Children the instruction of a father
and attend to know understanding not only
but all the rest of the Children were glad
to be instructed by so kind a father &
have often looked ^{over} those few Lines in your
Letter that the enemy was much easier
kept under then brought down again &
have really found to be so for when he gets
the upper hand it is hard work to get him
down again & find a continual warfare in me
the flesh warring against spirit and the
spirit against the flesh that if I clever
read or heard of this warfare I could not
help finding off it in myself but glory be to
god that I sometimes through grace have
the victory and I hope your prayers for me
will be that I at Last may Come off a conqueror
and more then so through him that
has Loved me and given himself for me
their Love to be an increasing Love and unity
among us that it may still increas is my
Desire. I hope you will Come & Visit us as soon
as you Can see your way Clear, your obliged &
affectionate friend

Sarah Holmes

Sarah Holme's

Letter Nov. 20. 1778.

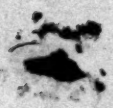
To

Ever Isaac Backus

minister of the gospel

in

Middleborough



the world in

The Church of Christ in Bridgewater
and middle berough grace mercy &
and Peace from god the father and the
son Jesus Christ I thank god for this
opportunity to Right to you my dear friend
let you know my affairs and how I do
as we may be comforted to gether there
the good mess of god to us ward and that
it may be strengthened in the faith Bless
god who hath not forsaken me in a
time of trials and temptations but hath
confirmed his Promises on which he hath caused
me to hope and I do beleave that
through the goodness of god and the instru-
mentality of your Prayers I shall bring
praise to god by my bonds I know not who
call them sufferings since the Lord
hath made those bonds my liberty I find
that god is not changed he is not ashamed
to have his saints tho in Prison I have not
time to Right but how that short by I
shall be you and declare the wonders
of my god Dear brethren Pray for me
who am your brother in the
faith William Hooper

This was sent from
Dorset gaol
April 4. 1749

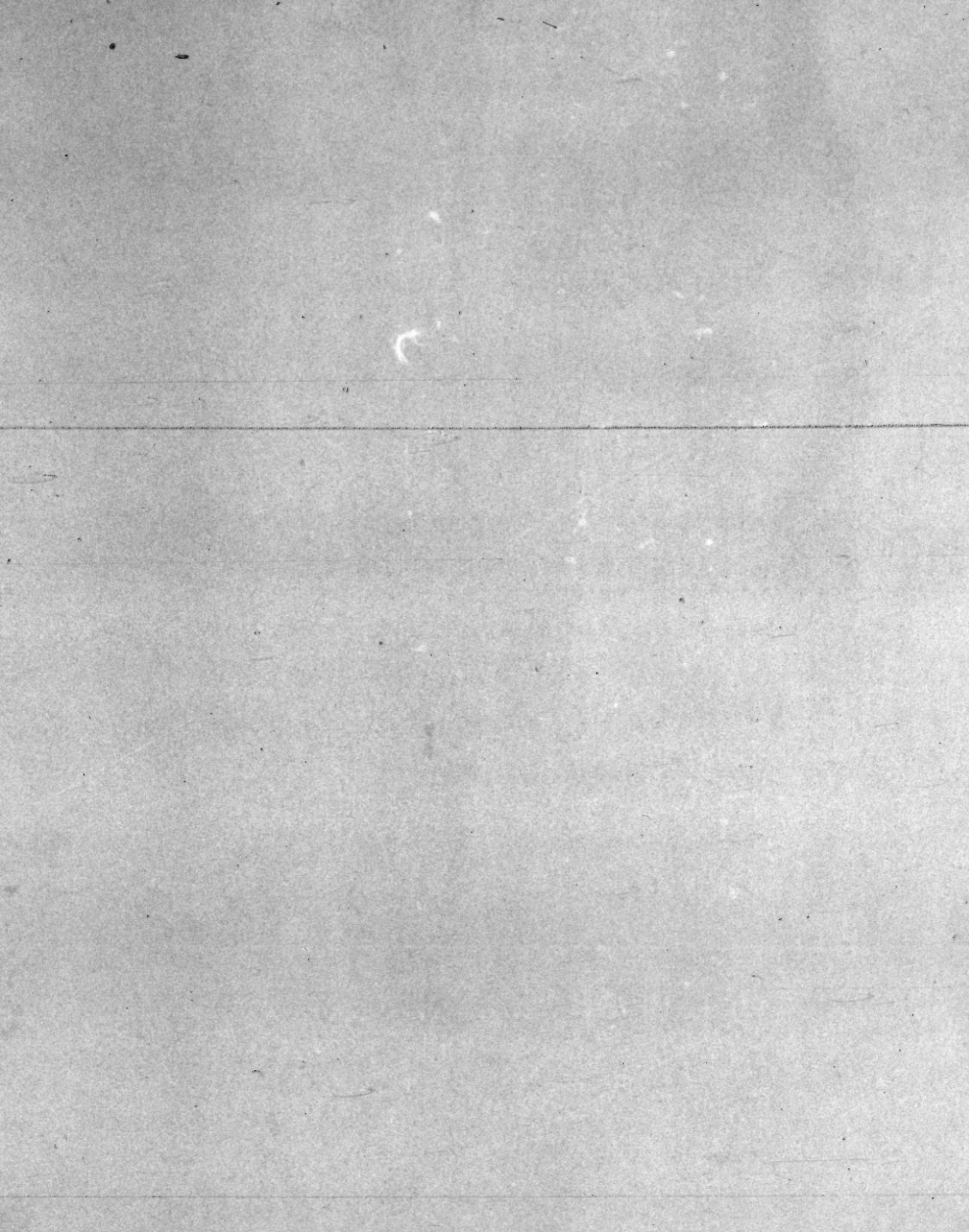
To the Church of Christ
in Bridgewater & Middleborough
By William Hooper Prisoner
for the present Gaol

Brothers William Hoopers
taken to the Church
of Christ in
Bridgewater & Middleborough

Apr 4. 1749

Apr 4. 1749.

Letter from jail.
Wm Hooper



Florida 18th

Madbury May 3 1780 Father Packard

Dear Sir I take this opportunity to write to you hoping
these lines will find you and yours will as they leave
me and mine and with Joy in my heart I will
inform you that this has been, and still is a glorious
work of our God in these Parts since I saw you
there has been a Baptist Church ^{gathered since} Last September in
London consisting of about 70 members and in
Barrington this has been a large addition the work
God is very powerful in Gillmantown where there is a
large Baptist Church and there has been some souls
brought into Gospel Liberty among us at Madbury
these Churches above mentioned are in New Hampshire
but we have had of late much labour in these
Churches about Principles in so much that I fear
there will be a general Division the matter ~~at~~ has
been carried so far that those of the Brethren that
hold to you will plan, as to these Points you being
acquainted with them I shall not enlarge) have ordained
two Elders and given in the administration of ordination
and have from time to time said that the Lord would
own no other preaching but ^{they} find to their great mortification
that the work of the Lord goes on wonderfully under the
preaching of those that ~~hold~~ to the Doctrine of Sovereign
Grace, I have had a great Deal of Labour upon
these ^{Points}, and have had for some months Past, Best seasons to
my own soul that I ever knew and have had the greatest
Blessing attending my Labours the Brethren in general
stand considerable clear in the Churches this way
and thro the Blessing of God shall remain firm in
Faith, the work of the Lord is very wonderful at Berwick &
and those Parts a great number of late are brought into Gospel
Liberty, if you could take a journey this way it would be
very acceptable, I am Will

William Hooper

about it.

when Elder Stillman, & others

and
Afa

Mr

To

Middleborough

Isaac Packard
att

Elder Hooper's
Letter, May 3, 1780.

Recd. May 21
L. B.

Florida 13th July 1796
State of New York

Dear Brethren in the Lord

Brother Samuel Tainter was directed to me
as a servant of the Lord he has been with us
a considerable time and have been perfectly ac-
quainted with him all the time since he came
here he walked like a worthy servant of the
Lord he has married a wife in this place of
an honorable family the people has a great
desire that he should settle here and have
been a member of the baptis^t for 20 years and
have been acknowledged a preacher of the gospel
now am a member of Elder Reuben Mudge
Church of this town

Charles Howe

Middleborough Oct. 10

Charles Howe

July 13. 1796.

Recd. Aug. 29.

J. B.

Cardinal Boston

I hope this may find you in the enjoyment of every needed Blessing that may qualify you for the Service & Advancement of God.

If you remember it was voted that we should prepare a

Grammar & Arithmetic which we have been
I have been thinking of our children & my
children & they think it is a good thing
but I cannot find time now to write it
I shall be glad to hear if you can
confer with us as to the way to be taken all this winter
during school. Therefore I take this way to get your
view about it, & of our brethren who live near you. I have
sent you the Plan of it. I think it will contain
near 90 pages in very small ones. I beg you to return me
your Thoughts upon it, and that you will oblige your constant
Friend & Brother

Brookfield

29 of Sept. 1783

To Mr John Parker
Middleborough.

P.S. By permission I hope to leave Providence in Oct; and if
my journey is favorable, I hope to see you likewise
I have wrote Elders Stillman, Sherman & Manning
about it.

Col. Haver's Letter
Sept. 29. 1783.

Sept. 29. 1783.

My Dear Sir,
I have the honor to receive your letter of the 27th inst. in relation to the purchase of land for the use of the army.

I have the honor to inform you that the land in question is now in the possession of the army, and is being used for the same purpose. I have the honor to inform you that the land in question is now in the possession of the army, and is being used for the same purpose.

D. S.

went to Mr. Dea^r. Freeman's Last Saturday
after he opened your letter he told me
your Book was not Done But How-Ever
sent to them and Brought as much as was
and they told me that the Reason that it
Not finished was that they have been Printing
Express for England & they sent word that
might Depend on having it if you send Next
Monday or Friday also that if there is any
Material Error that you find to send before & if Not
I shall follow Mr. Millman's Corrections. Sir
I should have come my self but I am something weary
my Journey.

at W^{id}. Leathers Bridgewater
May 3. Apr 1770.

Chas Hunt

At a Hunt
Cott. Apr. 3.
1440

From my Hunt
Apr. 3. 1440
No. 1. Sunday
D. 13.

Do
Mrs
Anne Duckwa
McLobors.

Dear Mr. Beloved Brethren

Whereas it hath pleased God to call me to preach the Everlasting Gospel and also to Labour with the Third & Chh. in this town and they have chosen me as their Pastor, the most unworthy and I have, after many struggles in my own mind some measure of satisfaction of my Duty in complying with their Desire.

There are to desire a dismission from you to the Third B. Church in this town.

and wishing you much Prosperity & Christian Unity
I Rest your Bro's in Christ & Serv't in the Gospel
Alunt.

Middleborough Oct. 16th 1771.

At Hunt
Rd. Apr. 3.
1940

From Mrs Hunt
Apr. 3. 1940
Re. same day
P. 13.

To
Mrs
Dana Beckwith
Middleboro.

Of the First Baptist Church, Middleborough.

Dear Beloved Brethren

Whereas it hath Pleas'd God to Call me to Preach the Everlasting Gospel and also to Labour with the Third B. Chh. in this town and they have Chosen me as their Pastor (tho most unworthy) and I have, after many Struggles in my own mind some Measure of Satisfaction of my Duty in Complying with their Desire.

These are to desire a dismission from you to the Third B. Church in this town.

and wishing you much Prosperity & Christian Unity,
I Prest your Bro's in Christ & Serv't in the Gospel

Aunt

Middleborough Oct^r 16th 1771.

A. A. Hunt
request Oct. 16
1991

This request was
granted Oct. 22.

no in

I would inform you that I have
Divine Goodness I am something
better as to my Body. Health I think
I have been for some Days. I do not
must tell you that that is all they
to be learnt in all God's Dealings
I did not think of it. I have had
said that I should be so informed
under the wings of Mercy. But I have
taught me that no longer than God's
Spirit keeps me at his feet, my will is
I shall not in his (whether in a long
or healthy) no longer am I willing
to be what he is not. Do with me as
I please. I that my soul was always
I see always the Propriety and that I
of the Right he has to Dispose of me as
more at his Pleasure. But I have
ing I am like a Bull in a Cart
to the work yet I shall be my God
have found some Sweetness in that
where the Lord loveth his Chastity. I
I think I have this Day some Comfort
Purification on the Love of God to his
Man as it appears in his Redemption
I am sure it is better than Life. I have
Death a Blessing unbounded.

To
Mr Isaac Backus
Middleborough

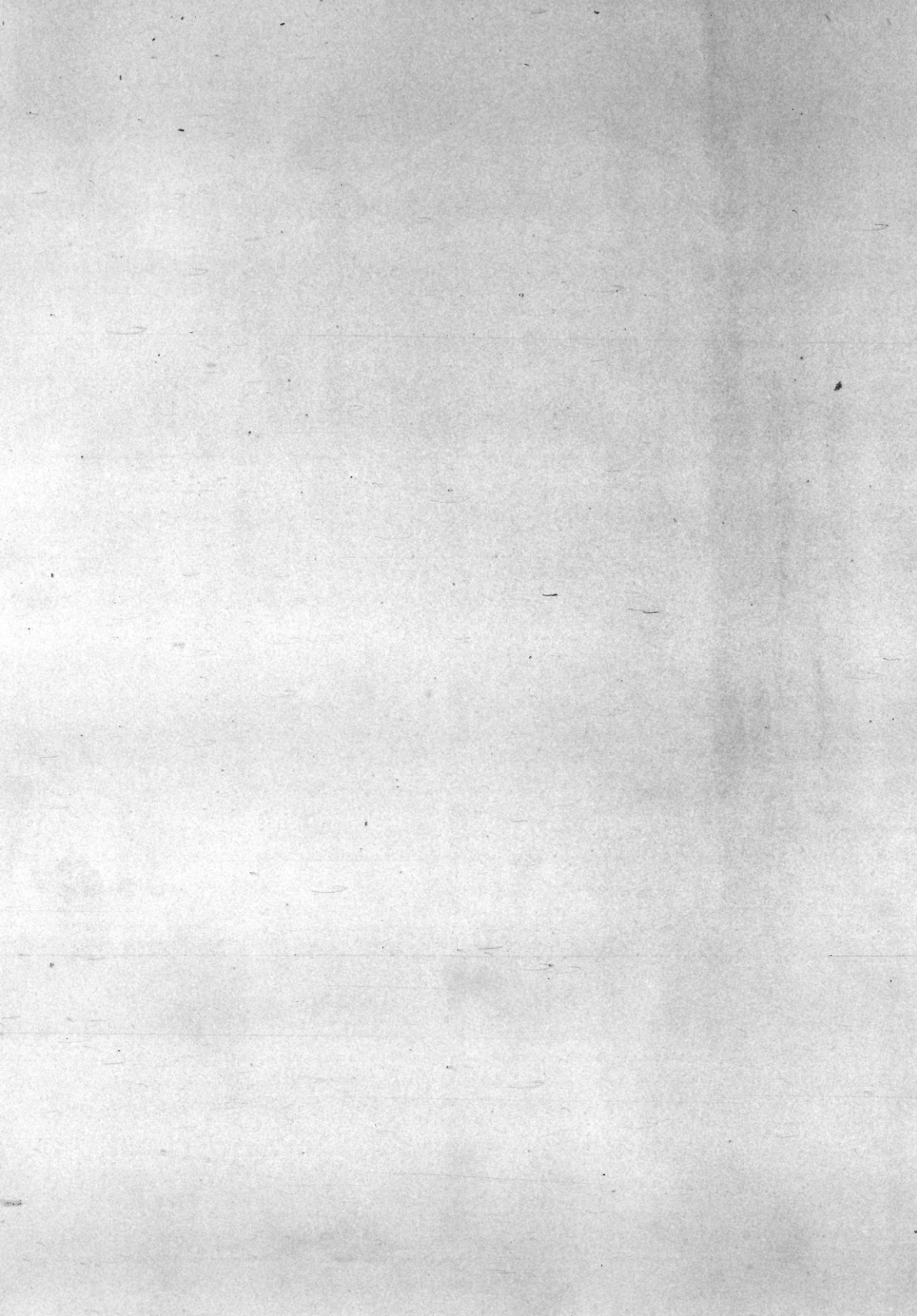
From J. S. Hunt
Dec. 21. 1790.
8. 13.

Mr Hunt
Letter Nov 19
1890

The Chief Engineer of this
Is this is to inform you that
to come and become a member of the
Board of Engineers and is also a part
of the work that the other to go around
myself or else I would not expect it
I want much to see him before
a next date.

Very
Respectfully
Yours

Wm Hunt



Letter Backus.

Suppose your Husband is not returned to the Jan. 7
inform you that I sent for, & Received 200. of them
Sermons about the time that I intended to have gone
for them myself I also Received with them a Letter from
Mr. Freeman in which he informed me that he the
evening before, Received Letter from London
~~for your husband~~ and Desired me to send the
within for your husband also that he had a Direct oppor-
tunity to send to London by a friend & should send the
Parcel that the Elder Left some time ago.
the Circumstances of my family &c. has Prevented my
visiting you & the People. Nevertheless if any Brother
had come, if you are Destitute I should ^{hope} spent one
Lord Day among you

Thine in hart from ——— Afa Hunt

Middleboro' June 4th 1772

Dear fr Yesterday I Preached at Plymouth in the forenoon &
People Appeard to be swift to Hear and I hope the word was not
like water spilt on the ground. in the After Noon I Preached at
Bro. Cols and we had a Comfortable Meeting John in Particular
before we Parted Expressd Strong Assurance of gods Love and
Prayed for with Amazing Strength both of Body and mind also de-
sired to have Baptism Administred ^{to him} & Next Wednesday a meeting is
Appointed for that Purpose; at Brother Cols at one o'clock I
should be glad if you could be there.

Let the Brethren at Medfield know that I Purpose to be
There the first Lords-day in February Next. and wishing you
a prosperous Journey in your visiting them I Rest Yours &c.

Afa Hunt

also was desirous to have you come

To
Mr Isaac Backus
in
Middleborough

Recd June 14
8. 13.

Asa Hunt letter
June 6. 1772.

To
Mr Isaac Backus
in
Middleborough

Recd Dec. 18.
8. 13.

Asa Hunt letter
Dec. 2. 1772

Worcester Jan 7 1774
Dear Sir I have the happiness to inform you that the work of gods
Spirit very evidently increases among us, and altho' there is not so
much outcry in Religious meetings as I have seen in Times Past
in other Places yet I think there is full as much Evidence of its being
a genuine work. we have had 6 added. and I have reason to think
there are several more Turned from darkness to Light who will
I expect desire to join with us and I also have reason to believe
That there is as many as 12 or 15 Persons under many distress
on account of their Souls. besides some considerable that appear
More sober and thoughtfull than common. - O Sir these things
are Refreshing to my soul I had Laboured since I have been
here and I thought to no Profit unless the Edification of gods
People and I can Truly say I sometimes wondered so many
People would come to hear me or that they when come did not
go out of the meeting-house I was so sensible of my deficiency
and had so poor Opinion of my sermons. but now I find
that some of the same sermons are mentioned by some young
Converts as a means of putting them upon thought.
Truly we cannot tell which shall Prosper This or That
my desire is that this work may spread far & wide.

My Labours are now Great I am on one account and another
Greatly hurried sometimes Oblidged to Labour till mid-night
Pray if you can come over and help us
and Notwithstanding what I have said my trials are as great
as Perhaps Ever I know, on several accounts. Particularly the
the Peoples being Plated the collector is showing up rates, and
by some People among us I am much blamed on that account
and then on another hand Goofs visits in y^e. Nuck and I must
say I find ^{hard} work Enough to go strait along without being
Turned aside by these things. to bear a Proper Testimony against
those Errors and Expose them snares and keep humble and
Love their Persons. I cant write all my thoughts.

However I'll just Let you know how them affairs stand.
Goff was up Lately and it is suposed that there he has baptised in
afsawamset and mad-mares Nuck are embodied and come into
Covenant together upon his Plan and Elifha Vaughan is set
to teach and to build 'em up. Crosswell is there now and has
been the Chief of his time this 2nd. is full with them as he says.

And I ~~obscurely~~ think I never was acquainted with a
People that Discovered so Little True religion that Pretended to
so much. Last Monday I Preached at Edw. Shearmans and
there were some evident tokens of the Divine Presence among us
But after J Esau's wife came out in a frame that was
most shocking and Delivered such things that I suppose if a
Grand Juror had been there he must ^{have} presented her

However I believe all these things shall work for God's glory
and his cause he will not suffer to sink

I suppose you have heard of the Destructing Providence of God
to ^{ward} Benoni Lucas & family in Loo'ing his house by fire. he Lost
almost all that was in it but just Escaped with their Lives and I
Can't but hope this Providence will be Bless'd to the
Furtherance of the work among us.

The Letter from New Salem I rec'd from Bro.
David Pierce and $\frac{1}{2}$ a Dollar in money the which
I did not think safe to send the money is Pay for
two Books from Goodell & Chamberlain at N. Salem

I conclude Desiring you would give us a visit and stay
Long enough to Preach 2 or 3 sermons, and Desiring your
Prayers for us I Remain your Hearty Friend, Brother
In Gospel Bonds - A. A. Hunt

Recd. Jan. 12.
A. B.

Jan. 7. 1794

A. A. Hunt

Middleborough Mar. 11. 1774

or Sir, I have here sent you a Letter that I Rec^d. from Bro^r
Laughan in consequence of our ~~the~~ Discourse at Brother Thomas's
te^l you'll see has desired me to read it in Publick but I did not see
fitly to make it more Publick than only to Let my Brethren see it.
I have been very sensible that it was wrong in me to Expose his Character thus
in your hearing and have seen and Confessed the same to him to his satisfact^{ion}
but he w^o. have me go with him to such Persons ^{as} had given an Evil Report to
me, accordingly I did; and found greivous things Laid to his charge that from
what appeared to me (from his own mouth) to be true and in that days
about I myself saw so much as Confirmed me of the truth of the general
port. However I think, to take that advice, Let them alone. - according
his desire I have sent you the Original of what he wrote me and have
then no copy for want of Leisure; if you see Proper to Take a copy &
when I come your way Let me have it again it will be agreeable
I have been among us this week and People have come from all quarters
to hear him

as to the state of things among us, I rather think People are growing
more careless again, altho' some appear really under the operation of
the Spirit. Two Persons were baptised yesterday at our Sacramental Lecture
namely Isaac Weston, & William Place the young Lad you saw at our
Lecture & both gave good satisfaction: O that God may carry on his word.
be so kind as to send me by the first opportunity the Particulars
of the affair your Brethrens Imprisonment as also what News from
the Court relative thereto. These in hast from your
Bro^r in the Gospel -

A. Hunt

I hope inasmuch as they have so soon seen the disappoint
ment will not be wrought I it is to be

A la Hunt's letter
Mar 11. 1774.

Middleboro' May 23. 1774.

have been to Marshfield and Preached 7 Sermons, at the first
there was about 10 Persons attended, and at the Last were not less
an 70 or 80 who gave Uncommon attention to the word and some
seemed to be Affected. Had freedom and Engagment in Speaking
I cant but hope the Lord is begining a work of grace there. Bro'
James & Thos. Joyce has visited us a week ago Yesterday and I
we Appointed a meeting at Marshfield the 7 day of June
2 o'clock afternoon and Expect some will be baptised if it
so that you could be there then I should be Exceeding glad
Really Think there is a Call for Labour in that Place.
have also been to the Cape, and I suppose by Sister Lovells
letter (that I have sent along to day if you receive it) you
will understand the Difficulties there. as to the state of
things here, Last month an Indian woman came from that
part of Plym. Near sandwich who gave a clear account of a work
of grace & was baptised. and Last Wednesday I Administered the ordinance
to Rachel wife of m^r. Jos^{ph}. Holmes of Plymouth at there House
Large Number Attended meeting and behaved very serious
his woman is wid. Dillis's daughter & Twin sister with Billingtons
wife. also Last fryday I Baptised a woman in Mad. mares Nick
& Spooner. I hear also that Elder Hinds has baptised several
tily. God is Evidently at work. O that Light and Truth may
prevail. — my Labours are such that I cant go to Cleveford
I hope inasomuch as they have Bro' Wick the Disappoint-
ment will Not be great. I intend to visit you Next
Monday, and if there is any money coming to me from
you I stand in great need. —

In Token of Love & Respect from Yours in
the Gospel _____ Asa Hunt

I would Tarry to Preach in the afternoon
on Monday if it is Thought Proper either at
the meeting house or any other Neighbour-hood

I am Persuaded it was a sweet Season with
of those (at least) who were present.

Mr Isaac Booth
in
Middleborough

DD

Asa Hunt
letter May 22. 1879.

Asa Hunt letter

Backus. The Lord ~~has~~ wholly Taken
Holy Spirit from us: Last Thursday a woman
our Society was baptized ~~which~~ who was Lally
at apt of Darknes; out of 18 that I have
since the 12 of Last Nov. I think she gave
most undeniable Scriptural Declaration it not
ly refreshed the People of god who were Present
have reason to think others were considerably
waxed to hear one ~~and~~ unexpectedly, so Powerfully
understandingly speak of the Great Things of god
Religion. ~~For~~ our Lecture is Next Thursday
y^e meeting-house at 2 o'clock I should be very
glad if you could attend it for I want very
much to see you & can't find Time to visit you
Just with Due Respect yours &c. Afa Hunt
July 2. 1774.

and Much Respected Friend. Middleboro' June 4th 1774
I Suppose it would be very Satisfactory to
you to hear from the Meeting at Marshfield;
A Brief Relation of my Journey there is
As follows viz -

Last Monday I arrived at Bro' Thomas Joyes
About 4 o'clock according to appointment,
And found more People met than was expected
And more than ever had attended my Preaching
Before; I Preached with considerable freedom,
and People heard y^e word attentively & ap-
peared somewhat Affected.

The next day (a meeting being appointed at
m^r. Sam^l. Williamsons at 10 o'clock) the
following Persons after they had given a Public
Declaration of what god has Done for their
souls were baptized. viz. Thomas Joye, Thomas
James, Grace James, Hannah Williamson,
Merry Thomas, Lucy Joye & Mebea
James. — I was favored both in adminis-
tring the word & ordinance of Baptism with
honorable Assistance and a Blessing and
am Persuaded it was a Sweet Season ^{with} some
of those (at least) who were Baptized.

N.B. Samuel Williamson & wife were Baptized by Mr.
Callender who are very friendly & kind - Hannah will
-iamson an aged unmarried woman is his sister, - Grace Ramsey
Thos. Lantons brother Rebecca Lantons is his wife, - Grace Ramsey
is David Thomas wife Lucy Joyner - Broos' Joyner's wife -
David Thomas could not join with them in being bap-
tized but as I preached upon the Doctrine of Baptism from

Acts 8. 42. I was informed he told the Brethren Joyner
and Lantons the Truth came with such Power to his
soul that he never saw Things in such Light
before, and I suppose he will embrace the first
Opportunity of being Baptized.

Blessed be god

meeting - ho
Can go to onership
Broos' (Coles it was a My
in heavy concern of soul.
-ment. I can say I am (tho' a poor unworthy creature
one Joshua Lantons offered himself to Baptism but was not

For the sake of convenience of water the
Meeting was as Near Mr Shaw's Meeting
- house as any house to ours - and it was
Judged that 500 People assembled, some
of the Nobility & most Noted People in
that Part of y^e Town. who in General
Behaved soberly in all the Transactions
of the day - I think Nothing was omitted
that is Usual on such Occasions Nor ^{any} Blunder
or mistake made but the whole was Performed
with Decency, Solemnity & order. may God
have the Praise, I am more encouraged as to
a gathering in that Place I'm obliged to believe
That God is at work there. a Door is opened more
Effectually for y^e Gospel in both Parts of the Town and as
I returned I was Requested to Preach Near Mr. Parkers
- house in Plymton and intend to answer it as soon as I
can. I returned yesterday I preached at
a Refreshing time, one young woman Left the meeting
soul. O. Sir King Jesus reigns - what Room for Encourag-
ing (willing to spend & to be spent in such a cause
as not true. Yours in y^e Gospel --

Ald Hunt

Ms. Hunt Colln.
June 9, 1774.
(Monday)

Mr Isaac Backus
in
Middleborough

M/2 Huet C. #

been among our people lately, and desires
them to attend their Yearly Meeting & de-
sire the State permitted: But ~~our~~ the Eyes of
the most of us are so far opened that he told
me he was for answer that they should not
come to their meeting.

and Last Thursday we met together about 80
Persons of N. B. and others who appeared United
in refusing to pay the rate; and also in not
having any concern with the Yearly Meeting, further

than to send a writing setting forth their injustice
& cruelty in this ~~unjust~~ demand for money
Not only without our consent but for that which is no

at the same time when they are contending for Liberty to open their Doors
& pay their money without being forced to, and our Society also are determined to remain
United in every may be the consequence: With regard to sending them a writing
your advice is to be asked, this is my Enquiry to day, and we would

have you take it into consideration, & if you think it expedient desire
you will draw what shall be to the Purpose, either in N. H. Name of our
People, or all N. Bap. in N. B. or your own as agent, as you shall
think most proper.

a great cold, and a
fever which attended me has abated, and the swell-

The Yearly Meeting is next Thurs-
day on Monday Next is a day of fasting
& shall attend the above meeting for
or the meeting shall be to the
I should be glad to have you know
I am your often affectionate friend
Mar. 11. 1775.

Asa Hunt
letter wrote a
my house plan in
1775

Dr

The Rev. Isaac Backus

and

Middleborough

Joy: East
Rev. James Manning
in Providence.

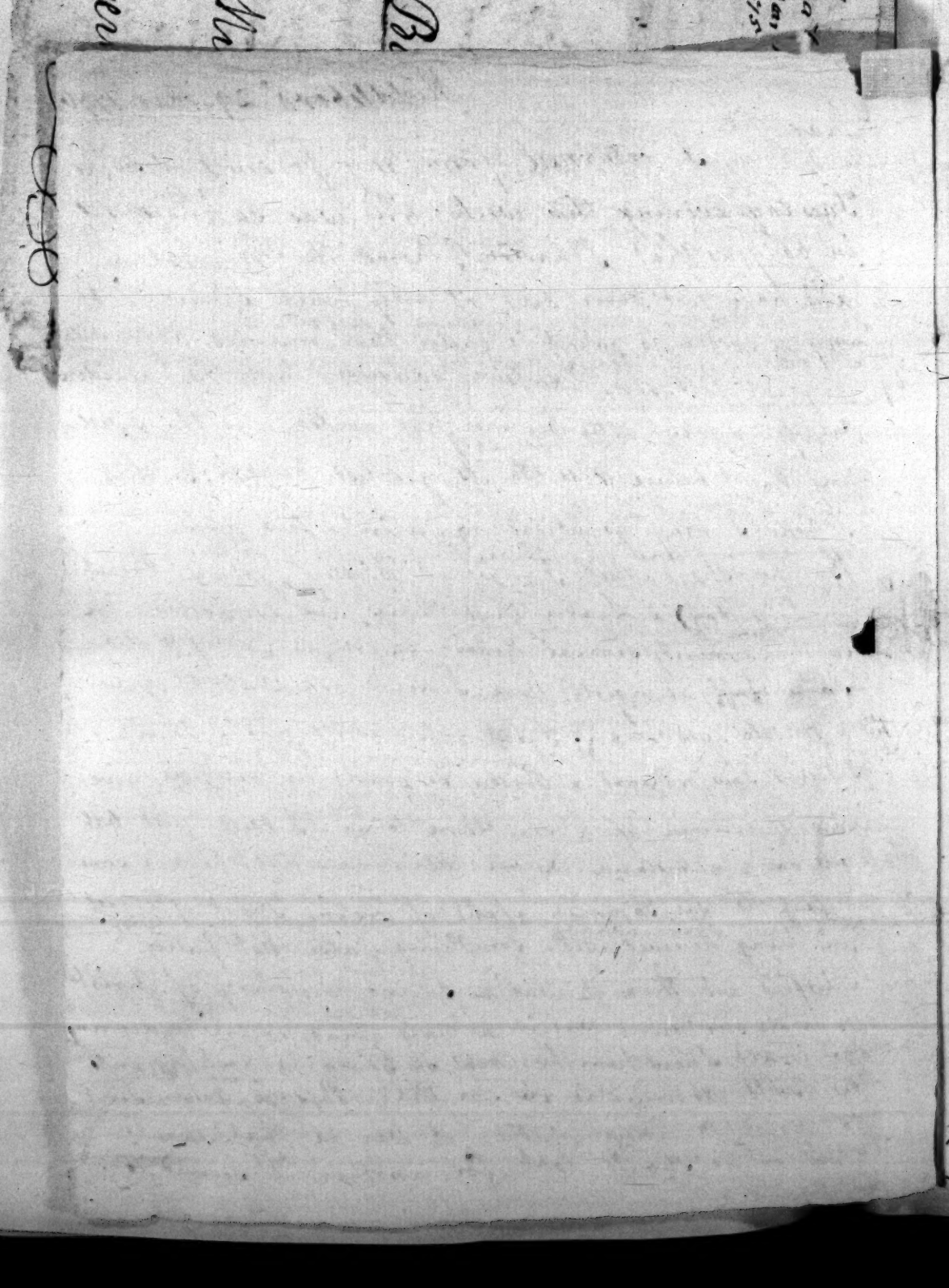
New England
Lovers

Middleboro' 29 mar. 1796.

Dear Sir

I returned from my journey Wednesday evening this week; and was so indispos'd in body, as that I hasten'd home the nearest way, and have not been out of my house since. My disorder is what is called the mumps aggravated by a great cold, and excessive exercise, but the accidental fever which attended me has abated, and the swelling has I believe rise to its greatest height; so that I hope I may go abroad again in a few days.

By the short visit I made at Dudley (where I Preached on Lords-day) I Learn that things are comfortable in several ^{towns} around. Several under concern at Dudley & also some lately converted there. I heard one child of grace (a middle-aged ^{in nature} man) speak a few words and I think I never saw or heard a Person so young in religion give clearer evidence of a real turn to God. I will just tell you one circumstance in his Experience - after he had some Relief he was so much afraid of resting short of Christ and being deceived with something false. Not fully satisfied whether it was a saving discovery of Christ or not, his mind was in a very great exercise desiring God would shew him his real standing he looking into the Bible choosed to fix on that Passage ^{where} John sent to Christ to know whether it was he that should come or he should look for another: it seem'd to



may be enabled to improve these visits

be much to his ear. or was the very question in
his own soul. and when he attended to the answer
Clear Light broke in upon his mind which put the
matter out of doubt but I can't be so particular
in writing as I might in conversation - also in Duglafs
There has been some considerable stir the winter
past so much in the standing ch^h. there as that the
Deaⁿ. opposed Publicly in the Meeting-house and the
minister spoke Publicly ^{in favor} so far, as that none could
deny it's being gods work - tho' it seems by the account
which I had that he was not the Instrument of it -
I also heard from Charlton, that several stand ready
to be baptised but Elder Green is still confin'd altho'
very comfortable in his mind, those who have visited him
think they never heard him preach so well in all his life
as he has this winter in a private way to those who came
to see him - also I just heard that there is quite lately some
stir at Sutton among brother Runsom's People
there is a great want of an Administrator of ordinance
around in those towns and if any one was to take a
journey to Sutton, Leicester, Charlton, Dudley, and Dug-
lafs it appears to me it might be servicable to the cause
and Kingdom of Christ, had it not been for my inability
I should have staid longer but I was obliged to hasten home
or I expected to be sick abroad. I inquired as you desired me
about Dudley ch^h. it began last May 5th. Day with 8 members
12 have been added since ¹¹ of wh^{ch} are males. Sir if you
have any business part of the way or should be coming
in any few days this way so as you could call and see
me under my confinement, it would be very agreeable
tho' I would ^{not} desire you to be at too much trouble
from your hearty friend
A. A. Hunt
* of their present number

Asia Hands &c

Mar 29. 1776.

105

Mr Isaac Backus
in
Middleborough

Sir ~~John~~
I miss'd of the opportunity
which I expected to send the enclosed.
I am now able to go abroad a little
but my eldest child has been a week
confined with an inflammatory fever but
through divine goodness the fever is abated &
she is likely to get over it. O! that I
may be enabled to improve these visitations
in a right manner Yours in the Gospel
most affly

Middleb. Sept. 9. 1776.

A. A. Hunt

P.S. be so good as to send the Letter to me
as soon by the first opportunity and
your much Oblige one

To
J. Wall Packus
Middleborough

Asa Hught Letter
April 9. 1776.

Middleboro,

Middleboro' 9th July 1776.

Sir, I returned Last night from the Cape, and am desir'd
To send the enclosed Letter to you and to desire you and your
People to answer their request as I am made acquainted with
Their case. I do think their is a real call for Labour
amongst them; it is Malignantly to see those who have
flourished as that did a few years past in such broken
Condition - yours in ye gospel. A. Hunt

P.S. Sir if your W^t conclude to send Pray send me a
Line to let me know it.

Agathang letter in
July 9. 1776

Recd. July 11.

J. B.

Mr. Isaac Backus
in Middleborough
Dor

Middleboro' July 22. 1777

~~My dear friend~~
we been at Dudley, and found the young Ch.^h
ministered to in comfortable circumstances, it has
gathered within a year, & consists of above 20 mem-
bers most of whom are young converts, who appear-
ingly engaged in religion. Elder Green Lay at the
- of Death, and in a very comfortable frame.
I call'd to Baptin & Sister young women Nephews
& Bro^r Smith (who formerly belonged to Holden but
of Spencer) and belong to his family as they are father
and it's remarkable that these childrens Guardian would
suffer them to live with their uncle Smith when at
because he was a baptist; but yet god has brought
not only into his family but into his sentiments it
be comfortable for the old man for now all his family
Baptized, all his one children & his sons in law. so
he has as it were a Ch.^h in his house.
when I came to the meeting Not only these two but
one went forward in Baptism and one of them my
in law. There is in my view a hopeful prospect of
ival in Elder greens Society. Thus I have given a sketch
of comfortable journey. your sons letter I found at Willard
he yesterday unsealed as it is now. yours &c. A. Hunt

Middleboro' July 22. 1777

as you desired our Present Number of
members, the Number is just 90. I should have
attended your Lecture had I not made an ap-
pointment to Preach at Capt. Sam^l. Daggets at
Chester the same day, without Remembering
that it was the time I had desired to visit you
you'll see dear Clark & know his business with
Singer I hope you will give him advice as
their difficulty about their house & if Nothing
else will do but the Law, what Lawyer to employ
I heartily wish they might Employ None.
Capt. Dagget enquired about the History he &
who have subscribed are almost out of
ance. you have all their Names except Abram
nes who has subscribed since. doc^r. Elipha West &
family and all his children except one Now live
Prochester; when I Preach at daggets their was
considerable Number at meeting. Your difficulties
are so far remov^d. as that we sat at the Lords
the Sab^b. before last. yours in Gospel bond, A. Hunt

Recd. Henry
14th Nov 1795

Recd. Jan. 20.

To
Mr Isaac Backus
in
Middleborough

Recd. Jan. 11.

J. B.

Per Hunt & Co
July 22. 1797.

To
Mr Isaac Backus
Middleborough

Ala Hunt letter

July 9. 1776

Rec. July 11.

J. B.

Mr Isaac Backus
in M^d Newbury

John

Middlebury July 22nd 1777

~~My Dear Mr. Clark~~

we been at Dudley, and found the young Ch^h.
ministered to in comfortable Circumstances, it has
gathered within a year, & consists of above 20 mem-
bers most of whom are young converts, who appear
highly engaged in religion. Elder Green Lay at the
- of Death, and in a very comfortable frame;
call'd to Baptize 2 sister young women Nephews
Bro^r Smith (who formerly belonged to Holden but
of Spencer) and belong to his family as they are father
and it's remarkable that these childrens Guardian would
suffer them to live with their uncle Smith when at
- because he was a baptist; but yet god has brought
Not only into his family but into his sentiments it
be comfortable for the old man for now all his family
Baptized, all his one children & his sons in law, so
he has as it were a Ch^h in his house.
when I came to the meeting Not only these two but
one went forward in Baptism and one of them my
- in law. There is in my view a hopfull Prospect of
ival in Elder Greens Society. Thus I have given a sketch
of comfortable Journey. your sons letter I found at Willard
he yesterday unsold as it is now. yours &c. A. Hunt

Middlebury July 22nd 1777

as you desired our Present Number of
members, the Number is just 90. I should have
attended your Lecture had I not made an ap-
pointment to Preach at Capt. Sam^l Daggett's at
- the same day, without Remembering
that it was the time I had desired to visit you
you'll see dear Clark & know his business with
- I hope you will give him advice as
their difficulty about their house & if Nothing
will do but the Law, what Lawyer to employ,
heartily wish they might Employ None.
Dagget enquired about the History he &
- who have subscribed are almost out of
- you have all their Names except Abram
- who has subscribed since. do^r Elipha West &
family and all his children except one Now live
Procheater; when I Preach at daggett's their was
considerable Number at meeting. Our difficulties
- are so far remov^d. as that we sat at the Lord's
the Sab^b. before last. yours in Gospel bond, A. Hunt

Middleborough Oct. 12. 1776

Dear Sir
I recd your Letter of the 7th inst in
which you request me to Attend your Lecture. I
shall by Divine leave come, and as to our Not
Attending to the Association, I am almost Ashamed
to tell the cause, but however it was really this.
The meeting was appointed for the Purpose of sending
us all, but our Ch^r was so Careless as ^{not} to come
either, and after that appointment of a meeting there
is not time to Prepare for it. I am sorry that
this is so with any of Gods People that the business
of this world should cause them to Neglect that of
Christs Kingdom, but altho' we are so Luke-warm
& Careless, I cannot but rejoice in the account
we have sent me of the Lords doings Eastward
shall be glad to see D^r Shepards Letter, if you
write to him I desire to be remembered to him
I shall Enavour to inform our Brethren at
Craftable of the Supplies Proposed, and I desire
we would save me one of the Printed Minutis
have Nothing New among us to inform you of
by the Death of old father Raymond & that
Dea^r Cottle is Sick of the Long fever
yours in y^e Gospel. Afa Hunt

Sir this Packet has sent to be returned
Expecting a list of the Society to be returned
in three weeks I pray you to let me
have your advice about it.

Meddemborough

in

Mr Isaac Backus

La

A. Hunt & Co
Oct. 12. 1796.

Middleborough 23 May 1778.

Sir, I have sent you all the Signers that could be procured this way, as to the people called Quakers they chuse in general that others should fight all their Battles for them; but few that I could see ~~and~~ of them would sign altho they acknowledge what we are trying for is right, strange that people ^{should} Love Liberty & not try to obtain it! as you desired a copy might go to Nantucket I asked advice of friends on the Cape and they thought that the people there under these present circumstances would have nothing to do with it, and it being something dangerous going there on account of the enemy or else I should have gone myself.

In a late visit to Harwich going thro Barnstable found the Court sitting and ~~he~~ went in and heard Mr Chases trial for Sabbath breaking he was found guilty in both the presentments, the proceedings of both the Councils were read in Court and main plea on his side (in order to invalidate what was done by them) was that the Council was composed of Ch^{rs} belonging to an Association who had risen up against the good & Wholesome Laws of the government by passing a vote that no more certificates should be given. What false & crooked work!! but they intend to get Strait for they soon went and passed out a number of their Names which were set to the petition.

I did think the legs of the lame are not equal.

I heard that you have lost a Daughter with the
Small pox I have heard it regularly Contradicted if so
I desire to mourn with you I hope all may work
for good. I suppose you have heard of the sickness
and Deaths amongst us. the last who died was Saml.
Benson

when I think of its being so long since I was at
your House it seems strange. ~~but~~ I have set several
times to come but something has happened to prevent
it. I have sent you 25 Dollars by the bearer of
Trust I shall come before long and settle with you
my families Circumstances will not allow my being
from Home - Nothing Remarkable amongst us of
a Religious Nature unless it be our Coldness &c.

I have baptized several at Barnstable since I
saw you there seems to be some concern still. The
among some. I have lately heard that the Ministers of
there have been warning their people against
hearing the Baptists I have exerted themselves
mightily against us. those who are converted or
are under Religious concern go immediately to the
Baptists & I suppose it excites their envy. I also
have heard (whether true or not) that they have
been spreading a petition among their people
in direct opposition to ours. but However the Lord
Reigns and all his purposes shall be executed and
that his precious work man spread is the desire
of the heart of all your brethren in the Gospel

A. Hunt

A. M.
Oct.

80

Mr. Isaac Backus

Windsor

in the several copies where
the towns all that follow be
long to the above the another
is mentioned.

Ms. Hunts Coll.
May 23. 1778.

Rec'd 24th

9. 23.

is I have lately met with a Book intitled
Phryganea quaedam APOL. SYLVE.
Ad Aspectum NOV. ORBIS configurata.
or, some few lines towards a description of the New
HEAVEN
As it makes to those who stand upon the
NEW EARTH.

By Samuel Sewall A.M. and sometime Fellow of
Mass College at Cambridge in New England. the second
time printed Boston. 1727. in page 51. I find the following
"another thing Mr. Fuller claims, at, is, he would fain have it be-
that America was first peopled by the posterity of our great
father, Japheth; tho' he will not be very strict with us, at to the par-
ticular branch of that wide family; as the breadth of his paren-
is shown. Well then! the Americans are not Canaan's children; tho' at
of his curse: as some have guessed. That Obstacle is removed out
the way of their conversion. And by this argument it may be
a firmly proved Englishmen shall be Leg & Magog; for without
troubly, they are originally Cimbrians; as Pontanus affirms.
see Danic. Hist. lib. 1. p. 12 and lib. 2. p. 38. 60. Some learned authors
figure that they are derived from the very Sacæ mentioned by our
Hon. Vortigian, p. 14. 20. And this Opinion finds favor with
mblen, in his excellent Britannia, p. 129. "Howbeit, that con-
of the best learned Germans may seem worthy acceptance;
I suppose that the Saxons descended from the Sacæ, a most
le Nation, and of much worth in Asia, and so called Sacæones,
it is the sons of the Sacæ. Well may New England brook its
me; seeing, as to its Inhabitants, it is every way of kin to
land. and Mr. Roger Williams key into the Language of
America, hath one word more than ever I was aware of; p. 33
least not proud English, of thy birth and blood;
my brother Indian is but birth as good;
make sure thy second birth is as good.
Heaven open to Indians wild; but shut to these, that see
the passage you speak of.

what this Author is Labouring for is to prove again
others that there is good ground to hope for the conver-
sion of the Natives of this Land: but the
mention of Mr. Williams, I never heard of the Book of his out of which
this verse is taken. I think I never heard you mention
it, if you have never seen it and it could be obtained it
might help still further to brighten his Character by
making mention of it in the History.

A. H. H. H.

Monday June 1778

1768

By Binding Contra Lg

Boast not Proud English, of thy birth
thy Brother Indian is by birth as good.

Make sure thy second Birth, Else thou shalt see
Heaven open to Indians wilde But shut to thee

Rec. June 8
1778

A. H. H. H.
Mr. Williams
New York

As I have had in some respects a comfortable journey.
visited Col. Thayer, I believe. he at first was awakened
a true sense of his condition as a sinner, but the
tempter has been suffered to prevail so far as that he
has refused to take food ~~to~~ to support Nature, that, together
with his Distress of mind has wasted ⁱⁿ flesh & made him
weak but not so weak that he could go abroad some if
it were not that the adversary has so much power over him
that he says nothing can do him good. I ~~advised~~ ^{endeavored}
to reason with him to the contrary. he seemed to hearken some
and sat at dinner with us. & Notwithstanding ~~that~~ he is
tormented with Satan he appears to have an abiding sense of sin
little hope of pardon. but I can't but hope he may yet
be brought to praise god for pardoning mercy.
I was advised by my friends not to go to Boston as they tho't
there was danger of the small-pox I call'd at both Mr.
Wells & Wilbur and asked them if they had Rec'd. the Election ser.
but they had not. if I could have seen it I should have taken
the passage you spoke of.

If you go to Boston Next week and could do so much for
me as to go ~~up or come by the~~ thro' the North part of
Granville & Take my watch which I left to be rectified
at Cranch's Near Brackets Tavern, and pay for the same
I will come to your house for it & satisfy you therefor and you
will much oblige your real friend. - Afa Hunt
Bridgewater Bro's Snows Aug. 7th. 1770.

Should have returned by your house only I have Business
the other way which would occasion another journey unless
I am now. enclosed is an order for the watch. -

To

Mr Isaac Backus

in

Middleborough

At Hunt's
Letter Aug. 7. 1778.

Middleboro' 7th June 1779

as you have proposed to change the
Lords day after next if it suited me,
I intend to come; and as Sister Campbell
has earnestly requested me to visit her &
preach there, and I have a long time
ago given her encouragement that I
would take some opportunity, please
to let her know that I purpose to be
at her house the Saturday before at 2 o'
Clock and she may appoint a meeting
at that time, also tell Deacon Shaw
I would dine with him the same day.
From Sister Campbells I intend to
your house on of same evening.

yours in of Gospel Afa Hurst

P.S. Brother George Shaw with this letter
brings you a small collection of money
agreeable to the recommendation of the
Association. I wish it had been more

I purpose to visit you on
the first Thursday in next month, if
the weather and Travelling will admit,
and if you can, please to let Epsom
Willson of Raynham know, that the next
Day at one of the clock I would attend
a meeting at his house, in answer to his
Request when I saw him last. I have
lately heard good Tidings from Taunton
on the work spread: it remains a
Dull Time with us. yours in the Gospel
Middleboro' 11th Feb. 1780. Afa Hurst

P.S. a Number of our people are
taxed to the charge of the first precinct in
this town. the rates are now demanding I should

Collected at Mr. Hunt's

Conl. money £4. 18. 5.

2 of our debt 0. 3. 0

4 of Connecticut 0. 5. 11.

Rhode Island 0. 18. 10. 2

6. 13. 10. 2

Recd. June 21. 1779

per J. Backus

Elder Isaac Backus

In

Middleborough

number No. 4

✓ At a town meeting held in the castle precinct meeting house in Middleboro' on Aug. 18. 1779. At said meeting chose a committee of nine men to give instructions to their delegates said comtee are Mr. Zebadiah Sprout, deacon Benj. Thomas, Mr. William Harlow, A. Ichabod Wood, A. Abner Kingman, the rev. Abraham Lany, rev. Isaac Backus, Mr. John Alden rev. Mr. Solomon Reed.

These delegates to Congress (copied from Mr. Sprout copy) are Mr. John Miller and Capt. William Shaw. Aug. 16. 1779 per J. Backus.

Sir Having an opportunity by Brother
Billington. I embrace it just to let you
know that I purpose to visit you on
the first Thursday in next month, if
the weather and Travelling will admit,
and if you can, please to let Eppaim
Willson of Nayonham know, that the next
Day at one of the clock I would attend
a meeting at his house, in answer to his
Request when I saw him Last. I have
Lateley heard good Tidings from Taunton
O may the work spread! it remains a
Dull Time with us. yours in the Gospel
Middleboro' 11th Feb. 1780. Afa Hunt

P.S. a Number of our people are
Tend to the charge of the first precinct in
this town. the rates are now Demanding I should

No. 11178
Feb. 11/78

10

Red St. A. S.
B. B. B. B. B.
S. B. B.

Mr. Isaac Barker
in Middleborough

be glad of your advice what method we should
take, I think this conduct should be
exposed in some public manner. At

us. It still continues. There seems a general thoughtfulness, a number are under heavy Conversions - one has obtained again last night; we had evening meetings on a week; last week, however, pretty large congregations they come. 4 or 5 miles God has given me a view of the fields white to harvest. I feel a willingness to labour but my my outwards man's - but blessed be God, I enjoy a heaven of my outwards man's. Tell the Brethren with you from me to prayer on their is a common a head.

A. A. A.

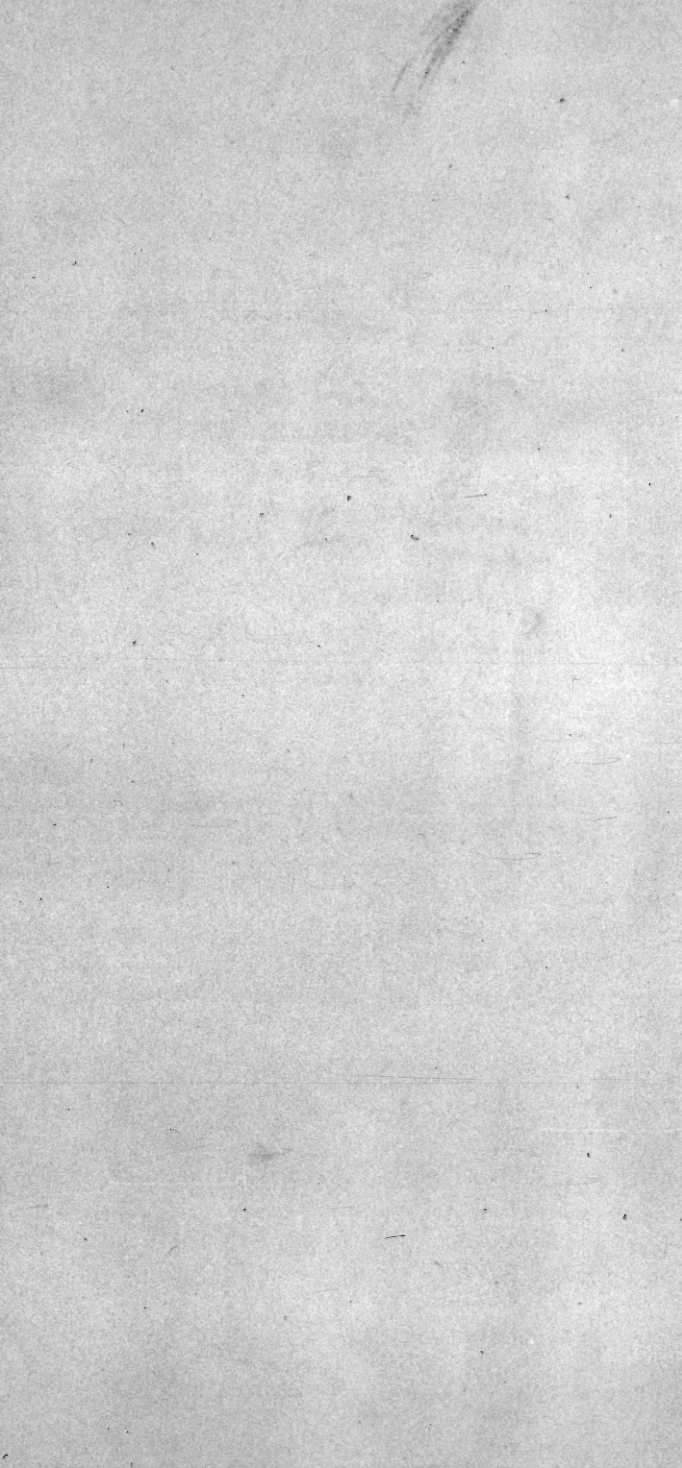
if it will suit to
change Next Lords
Day or the Next
following, I shall
know it by your com-
ing to our house on
Saturday before

Elder Hunt, letter
Apr. 14th 1780

Recd. Apr. 15
J. B.

Mr. Isaac Backus
in Middlebury

Thos. W. W. W.



May 10 90th Feb. 1781

Dear Eliza,

it Being now Sometime since I saw you
 And having a direct opportunity by Brother Clark
 I thought it would be comfortable to you to hear
 How the work goes on amongst us. We thought about
 Ten or 12 Days ago that it was abated, but since ^{then} it
 has revived, Numbers are daily struck under conviction
 and seem as powerfully impress'd as any that we have
 seen, & some brought out. and others who have revived comfort
 appear understandingly led into Baptism and have ~~been~~ cheerfully
 gone forward in that ordinance. the Number is as follows
 on May 12th --- 5. ~~at the~~ ^{the} ~~beginning~~ ^{beginning} of March, except 4 or 5 in the Number
 of 13 --- 2 are 4 Boys about 12 years old, ~~and~~ ^{and} three of which
 of 14 --- 1 were awakened a fast Day when you was with us
 of 23 --- 3 I suppose the whole that have been brought
 on June 14th --- 17. in Nov, are just about 40 in our Society only.
 of 27 --- 6 O Blessed be God! I am frequently overcome
 on July 5th --- 11. with the thought. yours in gospel bonds. A. Hunt
 of 11 --- 9
 Total 54

My Father Brother & Friend. Wednesday 31 May 1780
 god is doing won-
 der amongst us, we have Baptised 11, and
 there is not far from 30 more hopefully
 brought into Liberty; among the rest John
 Benson, Edw. Raymond and George Shew's Daughters
 whom I suppose you know. Deacon James
 Shaw has the joy of seeing all his children in
 the Truth. The Last of them brought in
 yesterday. — the work has increased from
 the begining — this week has brought forth more
 than any time before — and yesterday was
 such a season as I Never saw. after the
 worship was over at the meeting house
 a Body of the people repaired to my house
 and we began to sing and pray — and the
 divine power was like pentecost, and by
 6 persons obtained Liberty, and such the
 singing of saints and crys of sinners as I never
 saw. among the rest, a little boy of 9 years of
 age & small who appeared to have been deliv'd. in y^e
 of the darkness more than a week ago, was now
 singing Jesus, and carried in the arms of his
 father among the people, & call'd. dejects. sinners
 come to christ, and I believe was pained for their
 ignorance. for further particulars inquire of the nclude, ~~by~~
 Brothers who bear this yours in best Affection
 A. Hunt

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Elder Hunt's Letter

July 12. 1780

Recd July 13.

J. B. S.

Elder Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Last Lord Day was our Communion
when 36 persons 26 of whom were males were received
as members most of them young people with a slight
more amongst us was that our young men & women
met as often now for to select one another and sing
good psalms, as they used to do to go on with their society
& when together are as unwilling to part which sometimes
draws in with y^e error (of sinners) of being late in the night before they
break up y^e meeting. but however we can bear with it

Elder Hunt's
Letter, May 31. 1780.

Recd the same
day by ed. Seaman

I Backus. Expresser
meeting at George Hutchinson's
Next Monday July 2. clerk

Please to Appear at a

miss it, must just inform you that the
 Number of our baptised has increased to 66 &
 This day I have expectation of going into
 the water with several, the work still continues
 tho' not altogether so powerfull - Elder Lewis
 has been to the vineyard & baptised 8 persons there
 first who went into the water ~~was~~ and the first
 white person ever baptised on that Island (I mean
 in this baptism there) was Major Norton the High
 Sheriff of N. Hampshire - Numbers there under conviction
 several converted. Last week I visited Rhode Island
 very low time there, E. Thurston will I should be re-
 turn to you - also on my return preach at E. Burroughs
 Norton they have had the addition of more than 30 in
 months past.

I sometimes conclude myself the 'Happiest man in
 World. O for humility and constancy I have

Very Dear Sir I heard yesterday dimly
 from Elder Lewis he has had a com-
 fortable visit at the vineyard, We know
 not how the story of his being drowned
~~came~~ came to be made unless the
 Enemies of religion reported what they
 would be glad of - he sends me word
 That there is more of reformation
 on the Island than there is
 among us. he baptised 15. Thus
 God is blessing the Islands as well
 as other places. yours in haste

Monday 4 Sept

I believe
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 he done
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Elder Hunt's
Letter, May 31 1780

Elder Hunt's
Letter, Sept. 4. 1780.

Rec'd. 4th.

J. B.

For

Elder Isaac Backus

St John's

Last Lord Day was our Communion
when 36 persons 26 of whom were males were received
the most of them young people such a sight
we had our young men & women
some another and sing
their words
May

Elder Hunt's Letter
of Aug. 17. 1780

Rec'd. 13th June Day.
Elder Isaac Backus
Shediac

1. Middleb. 22. Feb. 1781

Middleb. 22. Feb. 1781

Dear Sir,

When I returned from the Association, I found about $\frac{1}{2}$ a dozen young Converts brought out Clear while I was gone, 6 were baptised last week, and last Lords-day another ^(a young man who had been very careless) appeared to give as Clear Convincing declaration of a work of grace in his soul as any one out of 90 which we have heard among us since this work began. Conviction seems to spread, and young Christians hitherto hold out, much engaged in Evening meetings in which they exhort and pray sometimes to admiration. Thus things are with us, - and when I think them over and look around and see Neighbours kind and obliging - praying in almost every house, which in some cottages in the woods make 'em even to ring as well as singing psalms, I say when I think of these things, together with the favours of God to my own soul, I sometimes conclude myself the Happiest man in the World. O for humility and gratitude! I have preached 3 sermons lately at Rochester and our gracious Lord was with me, some were pricked in the heart. I believe the Lord has begun there - the work goes on gloriously at the Vineyard, O may it still spread! I have done what I could with the Protest - people sign it readily but plainly perceive the time is too short, would propose the Circulation thereof to be continued longer. but I expect to see you week after next in my journey to Haverhill in mean while rest yours. - Affly Yours

encouraged. There is considerable opposition

212

Mr Saml Bachelus

Wichborough

Elder Hunt
Letter Oct. 14. 1780.

Middleb. 22nd Feb. 1781

Dear Sir, I just inform you that some
sins amongst us are truly awakened,
I have baptised one young Convert in
Rochester Town, the fruit of Late Labour
here; since which I hear that a number
are awakened, and things look encouraging.
I have rec^d accounts from the Vineyard both
in writing, and verbal, which inform that
the work still goes on, some converted since
we were there; and it seems the Lord is doing
wonders on the Cape. O! how encouraging are
these things to every Labourer in the vineyard.
I have a desire to attend your Lecture but
can't tell as I shall have leave — shall
conclude by informing, that the ch^h have at
length been brought to the necessity of excluding
Mr Thomas in order to maintain the honour of the
cause — yours in haste. — Hunt

Middleb. 3rd Mar. 1781.

Dear Sir At Marshfield Last week
I preached 5 ser^s and baptised 4 persons,
The work increases, I left a number un-
der powerfull Conviction, the handful of
Brethren are joyfull and lively, and much
encouraged. There is Considerable opposition,
but some Persons of Note are brought
to favour the work. I can hardly re-
collect when I had a more Comfortable
Journey, and there appears to me a very
promising prospect there. two lately
converted at Sittuate have become acquainted
at Marshfield. Yesterday I rec^d a Line from
Bro^r Jeffers from Pocasset who informs that
the 2 last Lord's Days, before yesterday he was at
the Vineyard and that the work still goes on
about a dozen are ready for Baptism if they
had an opportunity, and that he expected to
preach in poasant Meeting-house yesterday.
What encouragement to Labour. I only
want strength, but must conclude, ~~by saying~~
you'll perceive the reason of my not being at your
lecture but Nevertheless if you can come to our next

Letter Sept. 4. 1780.

Elder Hunt letter
Mar. 5. 1781.

Recd. Mar. 5.

Elder Isaac Backus

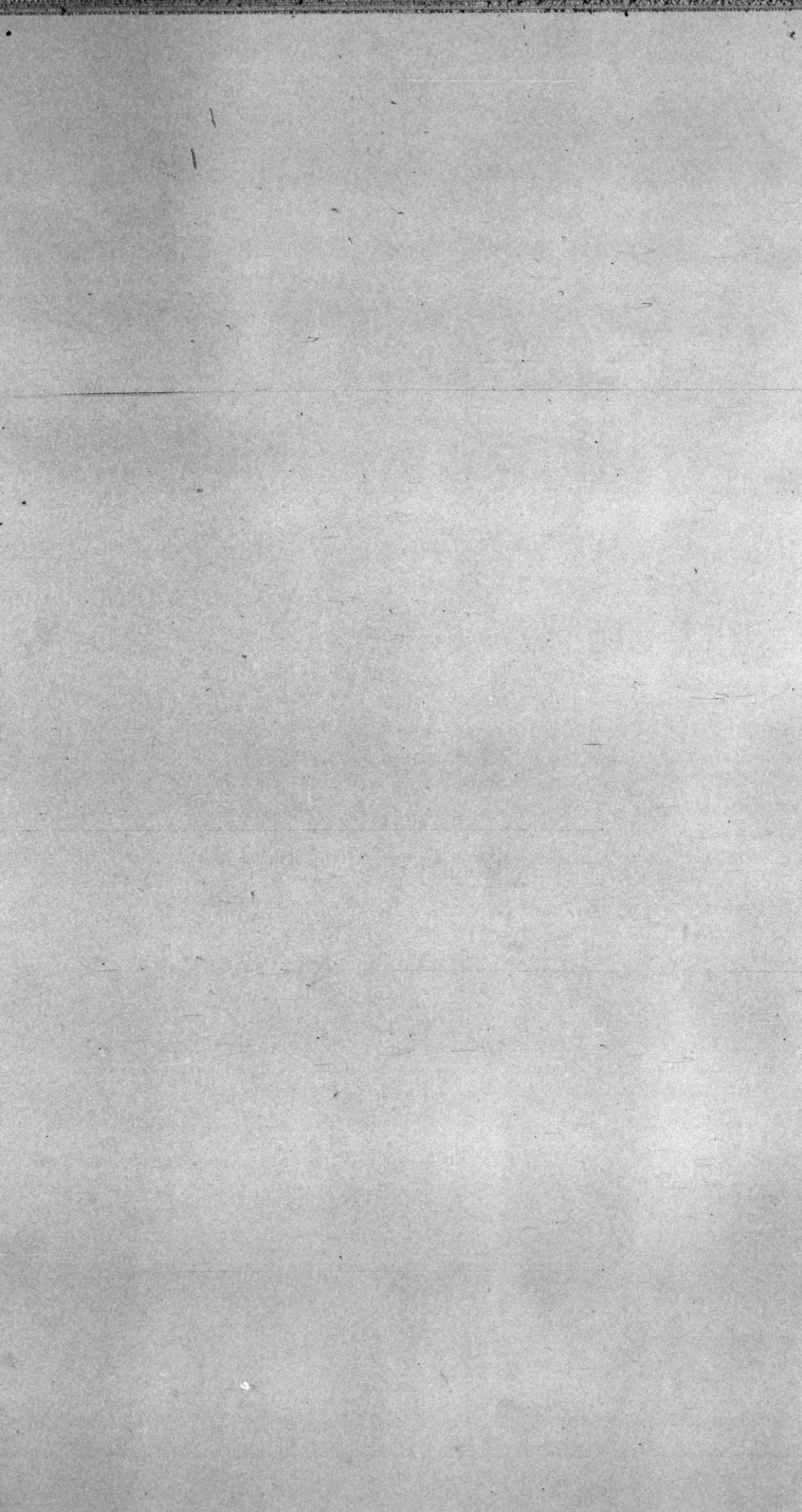
W. McCombrough

Thursday it will be very agreeable
Yours sincerely A. Hunt

I further feel willing to visit the Cape
and Syngard in March

Do
Recd. Feb. 22.
Elder Isaac Backus
W. McCombrough

Elder Hunt's letter
Feb. 22. 1781.



Middleboro 13 Apr. 1781.

Dear Sir, I have by far the most of
Barnstable and the Vineyard, at Barnstable
I Baptized James Lovel, a Considerable Number
are Under Convictions and some appear to
be met with relief. I preached 6 Sermons
and proceeded to Salomouth where I was detained
reason of the wind two Nights the 2. of which
was invited to preach accordingly did to a large
number - viz. Kindness from a Number particular
Dr. Smith. - Went to the Viney. preach. 20
men there visited all parts of the Island from
Town (where I preached in the Court House)
Gay Head. was kindly rec. by Lutariah
spoke the presbyterian Minister and preached
his people at his request. also preach. twice at
Chilmark. There is a great field of Labour there
monon is dismiss. and going off. and Thaxter
is ground - besure Mr. Mahew is all the
Minister on the Island I dined with him
could not expect more Christian & Civil Treatment
where I Baptized 3 at Homer hole one of which
comfort while I was there. there is Encouragement
to press on. if a meeting can be appointed at
Howards Next Wednesday at 4 o'clock precisely I'll
our to attend it - shall come your way & - should
lad of your company. yours sincerely A. Hunt

Recd. Hunt
Cats. 11/18/1881

Dec. 11/15

L. 17.

De

Mr Isaac Backus

~~Forwarded by
Capt. J. K. Smith~~
Middleborough

I have a letter yesterday from
 Mr. Wilson stating a favor of
 Mr. O. I. about getting the
 bill of Mr. Thompson as
 been improved of by some of
 but an idea of the same and
 in some words he will be
 all over. I have not yet
 has but just heard of it but
 I wish to see about it but
 suppose that they will not
 in some but if the bill and
 bill for some where willing to
 bill directive of the House
 of some that we shall be
 in some that be becoming a
 being favorable that if we
 in some it will be a favor
 have our people satisfied but
 right it will be a favor
 I think a letter may be

Sir, I rec^d. a letter yesterday from
Mr. Nelson desiring to know if
our Ch^h. would attend the Council
Call? by Moses Thomas; have also
been inquired of by some of Elder Hind's
brethren, about the same, and suppos-
ing you would be likely ask the same
at home. I can only say our Ch^h.
has but just heard of it, but had no
consultation about it; but I rather
suppose that they will not attend ^{at a coun-}
his house, but if the Elders and brethren
Call? by him, were willing to attend a
Ch^h. meeting at the Meeting-house on
That day, that we shall be willing
our Conduct be examined as to this affair
being sensible that if we have acted con-
trary to rule; it will be a service to us to
have our mistake rectified. If we are
right it will bear examination. But I
only wish such a Method may be

accordingly did, from psal. 110. 2. and there appeared
taken as will most conducive to
the glory of God and give the enemy its
Left Advantage.

A. Hunt

21, May 1701-

to Elder Backus

quail

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on

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-

weathery mane

Received from the
the part of the
the sum of \$100.00
A. H. H. H.

Edw. Hunt,
Cats. May 21,
1984.

Rev. James
J. B.

only with such

Middlebor.^o June 11. 1781.

Sir, I was very sorry that I missed of seeing
you last week. I should have been glad to have seen you
and to have been able to give you more comfort. In
my conjecture, that he is used as a tool by the other party
is what I have heard since I was at your house.

You are fully sensible of the present struggles, and
how incensed the other denominations is against us; new
things appear daily to shew this: Especially this day.

M^r of Rock^o, & W^t of Dartm^o, have lately
shown their warmth & Temper, and others which they
fluence. And I am informed by brother Jeffers, that
M^rs of Sandwich & M^rs of Talm^o have excited
matters very considerably both at Talm^o and Priest.

Deliver off the old story against Newlights, Separates,
& Separate Anabaptists, and I know not how many
re, equal to any thing of the nature that I have heard
this many years. They have set Supper upon his legs,
promin to do all in their power to hold him, & his
ble up; and Holly of Marspee joins with them, altho
has not preach^d at Pocasset for 22 years before.

I put me in mind of something formerly, I
know that my Preaching at Talm^o and Jeffers at
set has stired them up. bro' Jeffers has been ill treated
by some who professed friendship before, but says that
kind means to moderate matters so far that he was
in Request to preach a Lecture in the meeting-house,
accordingly did, from psal. 110. 4. and there appeared
evident displays of gods power. Some were struck
in perining Conventions, one or two had before this
been converted; & one baptised by E. Lewis. This had its
fluence in stirring up those ministers.

and
I Talmouth,
an unexpected door

the Newspaper publications they made some
use of. Thus it appears that on every hand
They are alarmed, and no wonder, for they
see that they are house-shaking, and are
afraid they shall lose this pretty fool who
is grievous, and besides Interest and Honour are
strong reasons of conduct.

Edw Hunt
Letter June 11 1791.
See Lay
B.

Truly believe Babylon will fall, and
I don't care how soon. I find truth
opening to my mind daily and feel a
great weight on my spirits. Things just
before us; which frequently terminates in
Joy from viewing the reality & power of Truth
of the Infinite Settlement of the Crown &
Kingdom in God's gracious purposes. O! it
springs up my spirits. All will work
God's declarative glory, & for good to his people.
But what will become of Poor blind souls!
Teachers or others, can we bear to think of
their punishment. but I for bear the Lord reigns.
It would be very agreeable if you could attend
Elder Hindin's Lecture at our meeting-house next
Wednesday 2 clock.

I remain yours &c. Asa Thind

Middleboro' 24th Dec^r 1781.

Sir, I set out last monday, my intended journey to Braintree & Falmouth, an unexpected door was opened in the better part of Falmouth, in the neighbourhood of Grosells Tavern at the house of one Solomon Nye, where I preached Monday Evening, to a mixed Congregation of some Presbyterians, some Quakers, but I believe the greater part were Nothingarians, however, it was a solemn season! Tuesday I went 3 miles thro' the woods to M^{rs} Lam^s Bourns and preached there, with an intention to visit Falmouth Town, But I had such an uncommon drawing of mind back to the place where I first preached, that I returned on Wednesday. The people appeared exceeding glad of it, and we had meeting in the evening. Thursday was very stormy but we had another meeting at even, all three at Friend Nye's who is a wealthy man.

their punishment. but I for bear the Lord Reign

frequent the friends meeting, which
he choons rather than the old standing
order, but appeared receding well pleased
with our carrying on, they told me a
baptist never preached there before.

From the appearance I Judge that Prime
Immanuel has taken ear-gate and old
prejudice is wounded prodigiously. This
Neighbourhood is full of young people.

Tuesday I preached in pacaset meeting
house and at evening at Jesse Bartons
2 miles this side, here I found some few
Christians 3 or 4 of which have Experiencd
Lately, these brethren & sisters are inclin-
ing to our baptism some fully convinced
I believe will practice before long.

In short I preached with great strength
and freedom to sinners, in which I
insisted upon mans total depravity &
helplessness, the necessity of regeneration
by divine Influence, and our obligation
to Holiness of Life, they heard as for

only with sin

nal character ~~is~~ concerned. I consider it an attack
the cause, in the midst of all, the presbyterian come

their lives, invited with great earnestness,
my visiting again, and I gave them some
encouragement. Upon the whole, that
length of settlement from Monument
River to ^{within} Chalmers bounds, where we
last year had not a friend to call upon
are for the most part ready to entertain,
and cheerfully to hear the word.

it is the Lord doing, may he have all
the glory. Brother Jeffers must be esteemed
the principal instrument, whose prudent
conduct deserves praise, & to render him
dear to us all, as it has to the people
of that place.

knowing that you love
Lions prosperity, I concluded this account
my duty to you, and rest yours
in the nearest Bonds.

A. A. Hunt

P.S. I returned Saturday night. Mr. Father
died last Friday of a fit of Numbness with which
he was taken 24 hours before he died.

Recd. Hunt
Dec 22. 51

Recd Jan. 2. 1852

Dec 23.

Eliza Jane. Buckle
Millington

Middleboro' 19th Jan. 1782

Dear Sir, The malice of the serpent never
appeared more amongst us to my knowledge than
presently, the Complaint against me has been
arrived to the Grand Jury by means of Mr.
aleb Thompson, some of them opposed taking
the matter up, but Thompson and others overruled
far as that Supremes are taken out for witnesses
order to seek for a bill the next time they meet
all the malicious opposers in their hearts very
much roused, what will be done I know not, some
as they say Elder Backus, & Elder Hinds very much
condemn my conduct. I dont believe it of you, but a brother
told me that E. Hinds in a considerable company after a
meeting did I have considerable exercise of mind, at times
dejected, but at others like mount Lion, without fear
of men or devils for I have a clear conscience.
My friends ^{or public note} appear to countenance my adversaries it seems
but then I have a friend who I know did never fail me
I request of you to consider the case closely, and join in
committing it to god, if would not be somewhat if only my
personal character were concerned, I consider it an attack
on the Cause, in the midst of all, the Presbyterians come
than ever to meeting, some reputable families steady
have renounced the other way furthermore, Moses Thos.
I have reason ^{that} in his day been influential enough
in the affair, has just made another request to the ch^h us
to join in calling a council. When I view all

tated ch^h meeting too

all these circumstances together it remind me of
the 83 psalm, but blessed be god he affords me
some strength! Last evening at a meeting it seems
something like 20 times. I intend to visit you next
Thursday, if you think proper. Let a meeting be
appointed at evening at Bro' Elijah Amers or
Benja Leachus he desired it the last time I saw
him I have no objection if there is no impropriety
in it, you know best as to that, if the weather &
Travelling be comfortable my wife will come with
me. the bearer is in haste must conclude if
you can just send me a line back by him or any
thing verbal it will be kindly accepted by
your hearty friend under (I really believe)
Persecution - - - Aja Shinn

Rev Hunts letter
Jan. 9. 1782.

Recd. Jan. 20

J. B.

To
Elder Isaac Backus
Middleboro

Middleboro' Mar. 11. 1782

Dear Sir, I received your Letter of yesterdays
late this afternoon, shall try to attend your
ch^h meeting, am also rejoiced to hear the good
news from the westward. Last tuesday at our
stated ch^h meeting two young brethren who
tune our Communion. Last Nov. have been
left to fall, the one by ~~by~~ being overtaken in
drinking too much spiritous liquors, and the other
wounded at a merry meeting, took this first op-
portunity freely of their own accord to make Confession,
to our joy & satisfaction. And I found myself greatly
strengthened in the work of that day for we held public
worship. Thursday I preached twice at W^h Meadows, the
next day twice at plymouth, and Saturday "preach^d at
D^h Coles & returned home. I think I can say my Lord
will give good his promise in every meeting. And yesterday
being our communion, was a remarkable day! The most
like two years ago the same time in Mar. of any
thing I can compare to. another meeting in y^e evening
powerfull in which brethren & sisters mentioned
some late revivings in their own souls. What will
the event time will bring forth, only I must
think my labours for a week past will not be lost
Never felt such exercise yesterday but something
blessed followed, Oh! may our Redeemer visit us once
more. Yours in Gospel friendship A^m Hunt

Eds. Aunt Lett
Mar. 11. 1782.

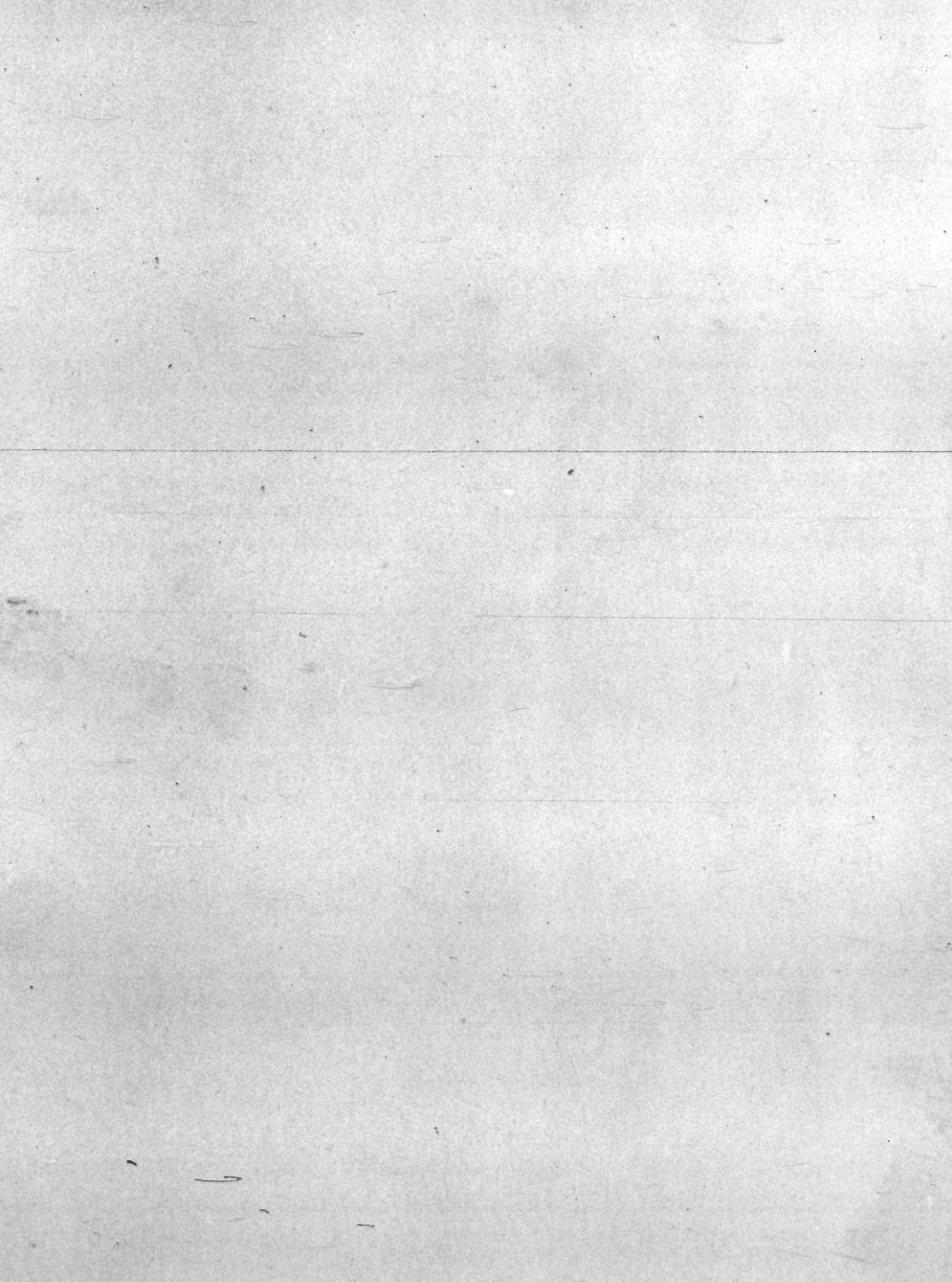
Recd. Apr. 18.

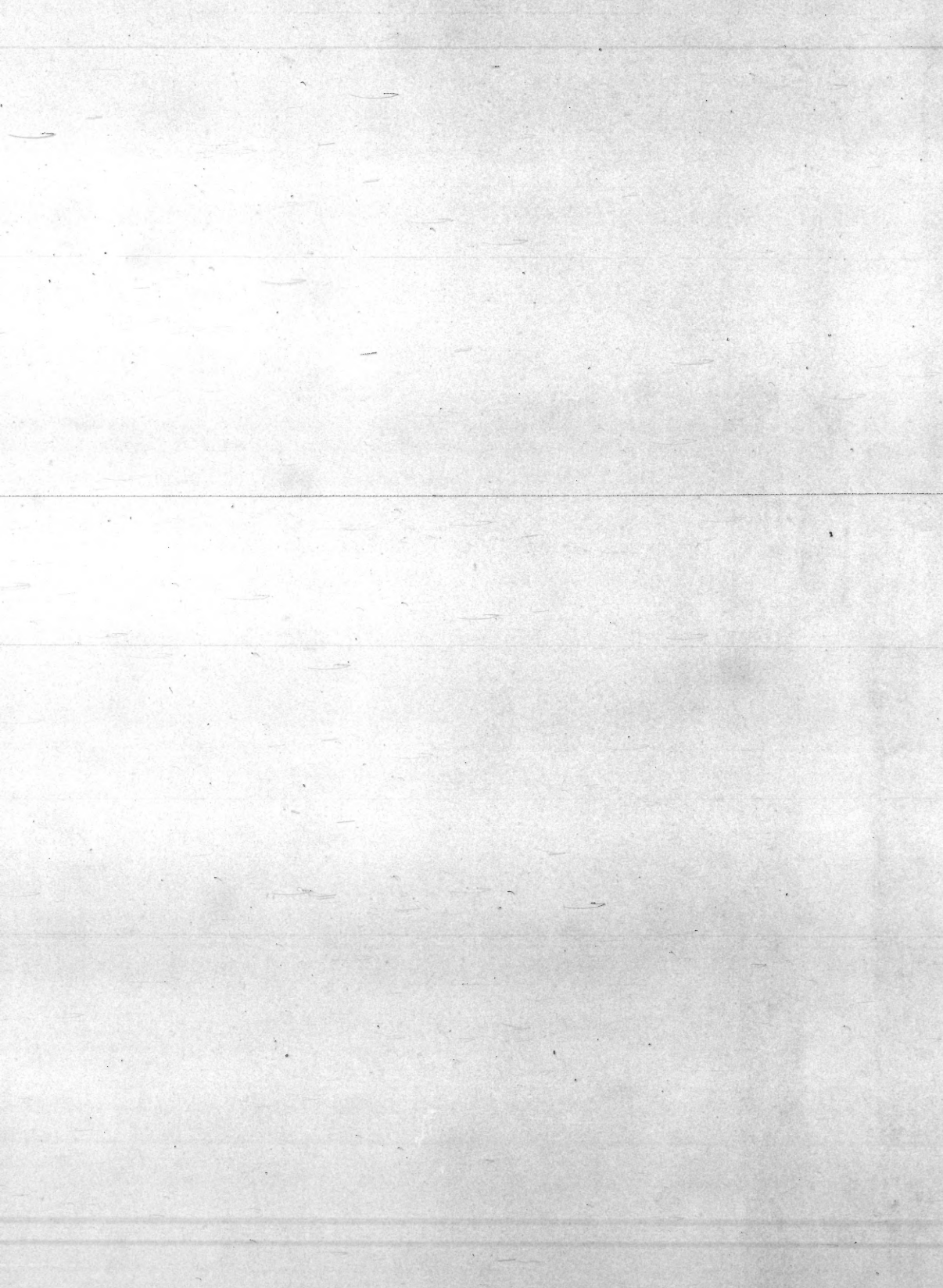
P. 27.

Dear

Mr Isaac Backus

Highborough





Middleboro' 21 Oct. 1783. Du

Sir,
As I am bound to the Cape next
Friday, if you could send the minutes
~~from~~ by Cap^t. Smith for the two
Churches there, I can convey them.

I have a very earnest request from
Wellsfleet to spend one Lord's-day, and
the Chief of the ~~follo~~ following week
there, for they have no stated preaching
in the town. I expect to be gone two
Sabbaths in haste from your friend
and Brother, Ala Hunt,

they are pretty well known to you, and on the
I shall judge it will be the best way. and shall

Middleboro' May 12th 1783.

Very Dear Sir, I rec^d. your kind letter of
the 8th inst. and rejoice to hear that
brother Lee's Case has turned so as to
give a Check to the opposite party, I hope
they will soon be sick of such Conduct.
As to my trials, things have so turned that
believe my adversaries begin to be ashamed; but
his Mr. Cony has received a knock on the
head, and seems defeated, yet those who are
sufficiently acquainted with his turbulent temper
may presume that he will rally his forces and try
to regain his ground, for I have heretofore ob-
served that disappointed malice frequently boils over.
Common asks who can stand before envy, which for
months past has been much in my mind, and having
seen that if Joseph could not, and Jesus Christ did not,
what may I expect, but the settlement of my
mind amidst all these tossings has generally been with
David, when I am for peace they are for war, For my
they are my enemies but I give myself unto
you. A number of other Scriptures has been
valuable under my trials (too many here to innumerate)

Yours very truly
Ala Hunt

Ala Hunt

Wm. Miller
Elder Isaac Backus

(S)

8/13
Rev. Mr. Miller
Oct. 21 1783
St. Louis

.. which has enabled me to a fresh surrender of my
all to god, and to leave my Cause with him, /
and I have found that he never said to the seed
of Jacob seek ye me in vain. I trust I have been
bro't for near 19 years, more or less to trust
his faithfullness and I can assure you sir he
never once failed me. So much I can say for his
honour. O! how Comfortable was part of psal.
31 seasonably bro't to mind in the midst of my
Tribble Especially 19 & 20 verses and the Lord has
been following me with his word one fresh passage af-
ter another for my instruction and benefit. All is well.
I have daily experience of his teachings, part
on our Lecture day last week I was much encouraged
& Comforted by that word he holdeth the stars in
his right hand. That upon the whole I have no
more tho't at present of giving up to discouragement
& dependancy than if I had not an enemy in
Earth or Hell. Dear Elder Backus I am sure
the experience of grace will not deceive us, but
will end in glory for so is it joined psal. 84. Grace
and glory, and as sure as we are partakers of
the one shall we possess the other. Besides, I have
now seen again how needfull trials are, and
how vain and antichristian every attempt to
separate Christianity and the Cross is. and

in my late journey to the Cape
was called to baptize the life of
every Kelly of Yarmouth a quaker
no flood in as much opposition as I
suppose he that would any way consist
with his maintaining his character this
as the first lab. in Nov. And
affers writes since, that just 21 days
after he ~~was~~ was baptised himself by
Dr Lewis, a sudden Alteration! but
to God workers. ~~There~~ There have verbal informtill uneasy with
tion second hand from Dr Lewis, that
after the woman was baptised he was so
much displeased that he told her that unless
he would publickly recant and renounce
it he would certainly leave her entirely.
at after his anger was some abated, reflect-
ing on himself he saw plainly y^t he was wrong
which he was led step by step to see all his con-
t wrong & at last his heart and all adrong
which soon ended in his conversion & then he
abandoned the first opportunity to be baptised

shall not refuse, if he desire it; or you, when you
consider of these lines and all other circumstances
they are pretty well known to you, and on the w^h
shall judge it will be the best way, and shall

believe in my heart that the old whore who has
for so long a time pretending to be, what the
Spouse of Christ really is, and yet committing for-
nication with the Kings of the Earth will ere
long find herself forsaken of her friends, strip'd
naked, and consumed ~~her~~ by fire, even by those
who have hertofore given her all their presence
For jealousy, which in man is the rage of injur-
love, in god is the fire of his anger, manifest
in Displays of his justice against those who
have ingrately abused the love manifested
in the gospel, unto a whoredom with their idols
under a shew of friendship to Christ; and a
departing from the faith under a sort of
profession of it.

You may wonder why I have not visited you
not for a whole year, but there are in
my view reasons which affect the cause, which
constrains me to so much selfdenial, which if
you cannot guess at now, may be made known
to you hereafter in mean while I rest yours
most heartily. - - Afa Hunt

I have had two or three severe turns of my shik
old disorder of body, was bro't so low in march
as to fear it would prove too hard for me, but am
a present pretty comfortable. I wait the will of
god, and direct your prayers for me on all accounts.

expressed by your friend & brother Afa Hunt

himself. O! how wonderful are God's ways.
 Mr. Jeff informs that there
 evidently appears a Hamster under
 Conviction.

I have lately return'd from Marshfield
 a pretty comfortable visit. Their
 old difficulties remain but a meeting
 is appointed 16. of this inst. at
 which I am to be present, they were
 saying it was a long time since
 you were there. if it suited you
 to make a visit at the ^{the} above meeting
 it would be very agreeable to your
 dear friend Alm

Wm. Jeff
 care of Boston

21.1783	Older Hunt	10-4-9	2-4
Oct 1. 1783	20.1.1783	2.6	3-0
20.1.1783	20.1.1783	10	1-
8.13.	8.13.	4	0-4 1/2
		5.0	2-8 1/2

Wm. Jeff

A. Hunt's Letter
 May 12. 1783.

Rev. Friends
 9.17.

Elder Isaac Backus

Windsorborough

107

Middleboro' 28. Octo. 1784

Dear Sir, These are trying days, in which
there is need of patience; and while backsliders
shall be filled with their own ways, the faithful
who patiently endure shall come out of the
furnace, and shine like gold soon to be
purified. I shall gladly attend your Lecture
according to your desire by brother Leach, and,
as his mother desires a meeting at her house,
would present there the same evening.

Through multiplicity of business I have not
been able to visit either Nantucket or the Cape,
but hope before winter to visit the one or the
other. I expect to be sent for to the vineyard,
as one of our friends from thence has been at our
house and tells me that their difficulties are
great, and they had some talk about it.
Your books are all disposed of but one, which
is some defectives, but the money I could not
procure reasonable for you before you went your
late journey. Even such a man as Capt. Tinkham could
not pay them. yours unfignedly Asa Hunt
recommened by your friend & brother Asa Hunt

A. Henry Elder

Oct. 28. 1784.

Rec. Sept. 31.

Widdow

Isaac Mackin

Do

Edw. Hunt
Jan. 1. 1783

Rev. Mr. G.

1783

1783

Edw. Isaac Bartlett
Middleborough

A conference was held at
the house of Mr. Hunt,
between Mr. Hunt,
Jan. 18. 1784.

Middleboro' 2^d Feb. 1784

As you manifested a desire of reading
Mr. Hopkins's late piece, I have
sent it by the bearer Jos^{ph} Smith, when
you have done with it you may send it
by some safe hand, or else keep it untill
I can take it myself.

The travelling being so difficult last week,
together with ^{several} my children being taken down
with the mumps prevented my going to
the Cape as I had purposed.

I yesterday heard of the breach in Sea,
Nath^l. Shaws family, I desired to mourn
with him. The life of John Benson's wife
is almost despaired of. God is a glorious
Sovereign - his work is always perfect.

I am more and more convinced that intire
resignation to his will is both our duty
and happiness. But O! how little of it is
experienced by your friend & brother Ala Hunt?

Edw Hunt

Dec. 8. 1784

2000. a/night
178.

Eliza Isaac Barber

Middleborough

6
Sir, I could not consistent with duty otherwise, to to
marshfield the first Sabbath in this month as I proposed,
and must therefore go to be there next Sabbath, and shall
leave the time of exchanging with you. When you shall
think proper to send me word, or come yourself ~~the~~
on a Saturday, I shall be glad of the opportunity.

These days are distressing, every thing is on the move
and uncertain - Nothing but truth can support in this.

I could wish to know if your people design to keep the
Public Fast, but whether it would be proper to write,
unless by a direct opportunity you will judge.

With Respect I am yours
A. Hunt

even affected to many.

At once left the ... at the ...

A. Hunt, Petter.

Mar. 12. 1884.

Recd. Mar. 13. -

\$ 23.

Middleborough

Elder. Isaac Packard

To

Middleborough th 27. Aug. 1783

Dear Sir at 3 Late Church meetings we have been so remarkably favoured, that some huge and trying difficulties have been very happily removed; Especially that affair of brother Barron which affected so many.

At our Last, the 25 instant. at the desire of the Church brother Ebenezer Nelson delivered a Sermon from prov. 4. 18. ^{before them} which exceeded the reputation of all present. For my part, altho' from my intimate acquaintance, did expect sufficient ground for further encouragement; yet was happily disappointed, Both as to the ingenious plan of his discourse, and the short Comprehensive manner of delivery, without many wast or unnecessary words, and his tones and language most excellent. After the service ~~th~~ he was examined as to the exercises of his mind with reference to this work which was truly satisfactory, ~~to~~ Especially some very late experiences. We tho't proper to appoint another meeting on next Friday 2 o'clock for him to preach to any who are inclined to attend, if it was so that you could attend we should be happy in your Company. My heart says, O blessed be our Saviour who has given light to man for the edification of his Church! These things seem to give a breath of life among us. Next Wednesday 2 o'clock and call'd to baptise Saml. at yr house in Halifax. yours sincerely A. A. Hunt

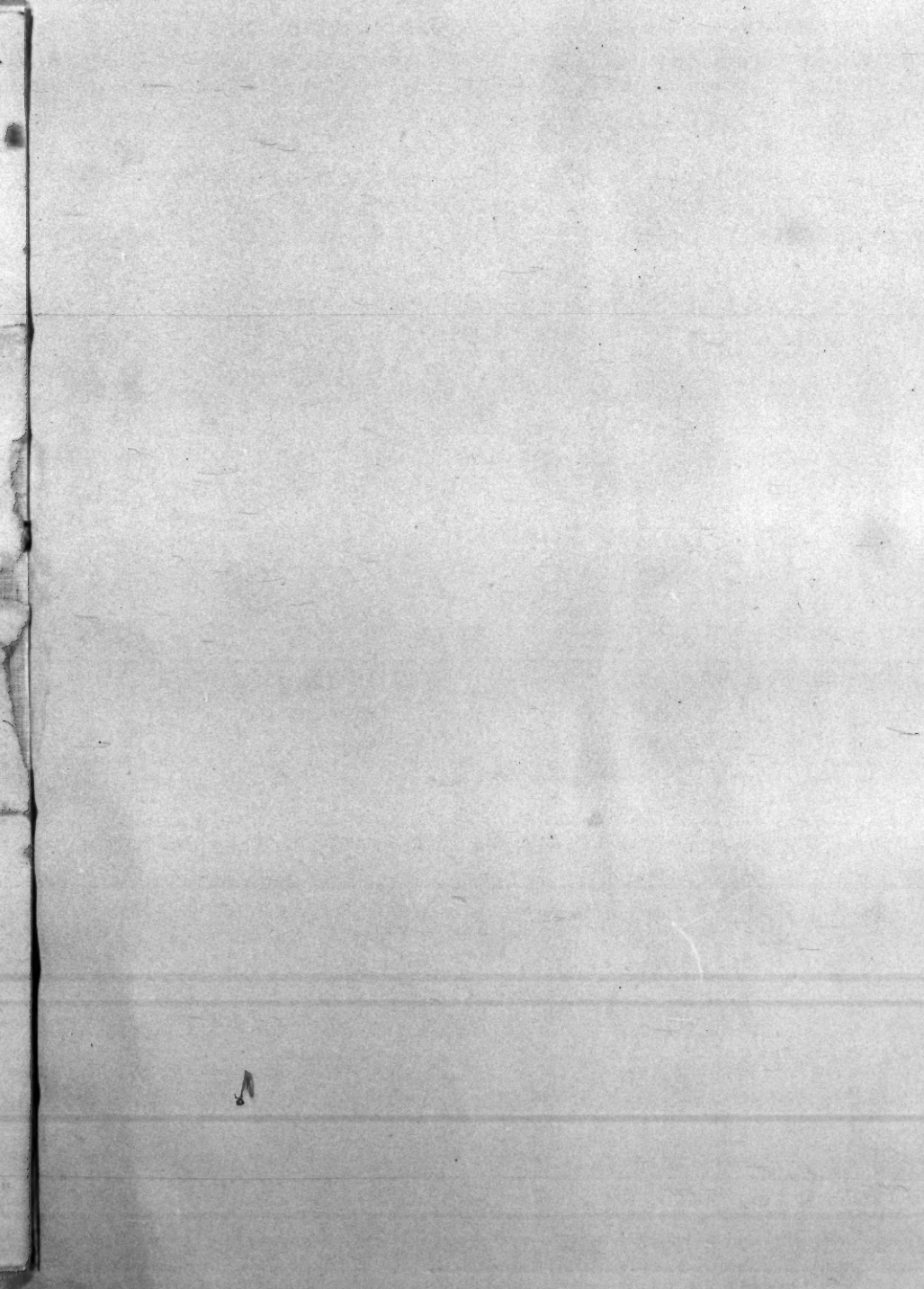
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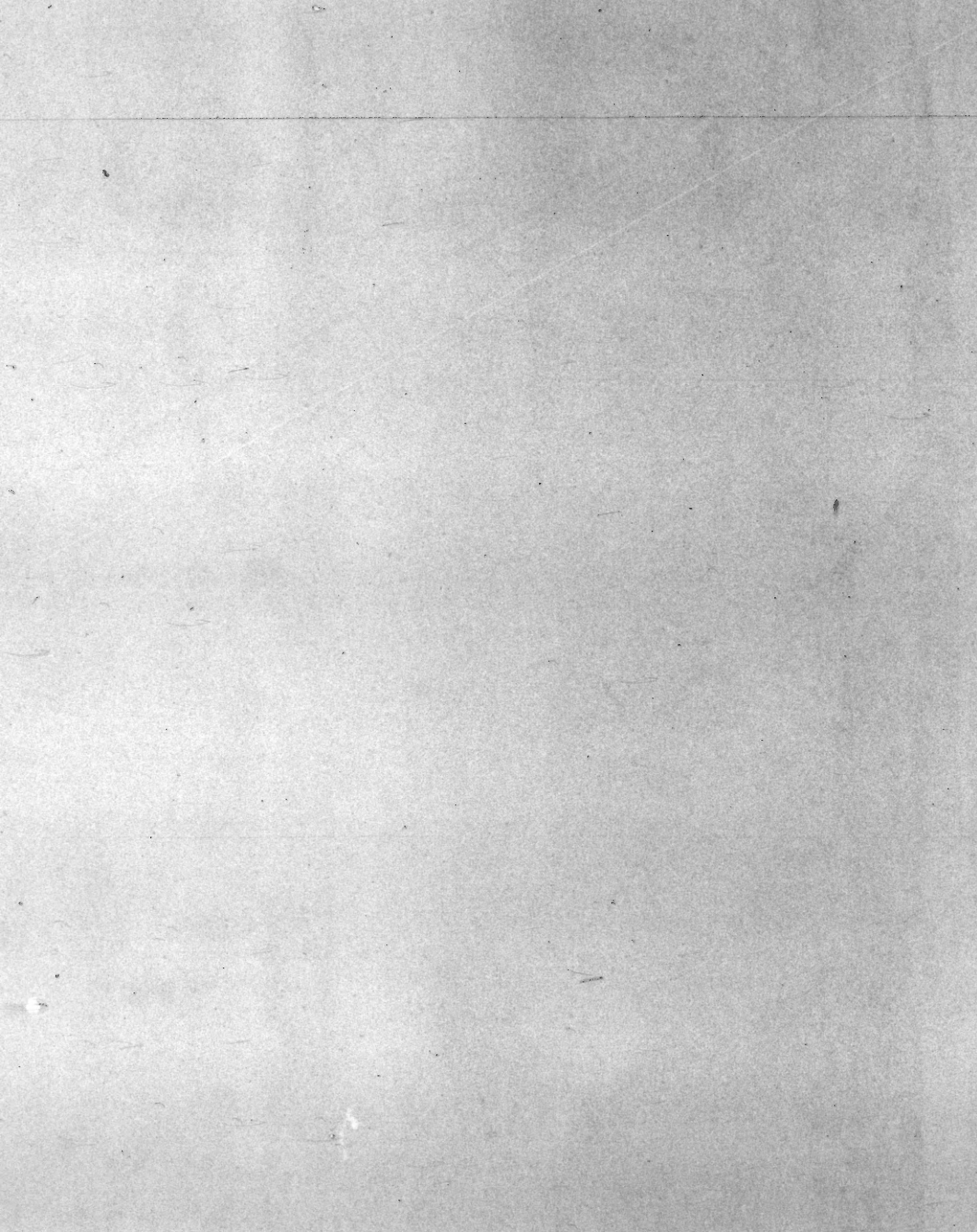
Mr Isaac Buchanan

W. McDougall

Recd Sept. 4.
J. N.

A. Hunter's Letter.
Aug. 29. 1785.





Middleboro' 29. Jan. 1782

Sir. After weighing the matter
as I have been able, and taking
advice of friends, [with the consent of
my people] the point is determined
about going to Virginia. I expect
to be at Medfield the first Sabbath
in October, and the next day to go
to Boston, where I should be happy
to meet you, and take charge of such
a quantity of Balaam's of the History
as you shall think proper to send.

The time set for the vessel to sail is
the 10 Oct. I should be glad to have
you write by my son your mind
about it to —

Yours Respectfully Afa Hunt

A. S. Hunt

Letter Sept. 29. 1787.

Recd. Sept. 30.

N. Y.

339
111

3000
1000
3000

Middlebury

Isaac Barker

Esq.

Colomes-hole, Martha's Vineyard, Oct. 23. 1787.

Sir I have been waiting here since last Wednesday for Capt. Daggett from Boston but winds being contrary he is not yet arriv^d, but is looked for by tomorrow.

This disappointment is attended with some Advantage, I have preached four times, as I did once at Trabmouth town before I came here, have also had opportunity to know how matters are here.

The people are very dull about attending meeting let who will preach, and do not seem sufficiently concerned about providing themselves with a minister or supporting one. Mr. Hinds has left them before the time first agreed for was up, and that by mutual consent, his Back and some appearances in his Conduct produced a growing disaffection, I believe his income did not answer his Expectation. He is to be at Pocasset a number of Sabbaths.

It seems he pleased the Congregationalists so well, that he preached in their meeting house at Old town by Mr. Thaxters consent, if not by his invitation. What a trial is this, to have an aged noted Baptist minister betraying our Cause (as it were) into the hands of those who hate us!

Brother Tripp is looked upon as a preacher by the Brethren here, and yet there does not appear zeal and concern enough to engage him, our people have sent for him to supply part of the time in my absence.

My undertaking still looks great and weighty. Something very considerable will undoubtedly be the consequence with regard to myself, what I know not; if I meet with success in the work I shall be likely to stay till the latter part of winter. I still desire your prayers that I may not run in vain.

Sir I rest yours in the best
of Bonds ——— Ala Hunt

P.S. It may not be amiss for me to inform you that the book intituled A History of facts &c. met ^{with} poor reception from Baptist friends here, they say ~~he~~ has hurt the Author has hurt himself much by this publication. This seems the almost universal opinion. But that which is peculiarly aggravating is, that he has by verbal representations & reflections, by all that I can discover, tryed to hurt you and myself as much as

probable, and yet had not of influence
enough to do us so much damage as he
intended. And Notwithstanding what he
has wrote against the Hiffons, yet he is
so inconsistent as to speak well of them.

You remember they have some relations
on this Island. —

Ala Hunt

Note he sailed from the Island on
Oct. 28, for Virginia.

J. B.

Mr. Hunt
Oct. 28. 1787.

Recd. Nov. 4.
9. 17.

Mr. Isaac Bachiler

Minister of the Gospel

Received by me
Middleborough

Virginia / Petersburg 7 Nov. 1787

Ever Worthy and dear Sir,

I doubt not

but it will be agreeable to you to hear from me at this distance, and of how I find things here. Of which the following viz

I was taken on board at the Virg and the 22. October 8 o'clock in the evening, and arrived within the Cape, and anchored in Hampton road the next Lords day even god gave me a very pleasant passage

Last Saturday afternoon I came to this place, an entire stranger, and acquainted to begin however, I was invited by a Gentleman to take a lodging. The next morning (being Lords day) I inquired for professors of religion but could not hear of any till

I went out into the street and happened to get information of a baptist brother whom I found. able just as he had got his horse to go into the Country to meeting (for it is to be remarked that out of 1500

Souls in this compact settlement there is but 30 or 40 who appear Publickly to espouse the Cause of Christ under any profession, only this one Baptist breast and not methodists. No m.

Middleboro' 14 Nov. 1787

2 1/2 miles
up 3 miles
River 11
or 12
another
Branch

A/sa Hunt

Letter Sept. 29. 1787.

Recd. Sept. 30.

S. N.

333
111

2000
1000
3000

Middlebury

Isaac Barker

Essex

Virginia / Petersburg 7th Nov. 1787

Ever Worthy and Dear Sir,

I doubt not

but it will be agreeable to you to hear from me at this distance, and of how I find things here. Of which be the following viz

I was taken on board at the Virg and the 22nd October 8 o'clock in the evening, and arrived within the Capes, and anchored in Hampton road the next Lords day. God gave me a very pleasant passage.

Last Saturday afternoon I came to this place as an entire stranger, and acquaintance to begin however, I was invited by a gentleman to take a lodging. The next morning (being Lords day) I inquired for professors of religion but could not hear of any till

I went out into the street and happened to get information of a baptist brother whom I found. ~~able~~ just as he had got his horse to go into the country to meeting (for it is to be remarked that out of 15000 souls in this compact settlement there is

but 30 or 40 who appear Publickly to espouse the cause of Christ under any profession only this one Baptist bapt 4 or 5 Negroes and the rest methodists. No meeting house nor meeting

x 100 miles
ago James
River & 11
or 12 yrs
another
branch

Sept. 29. 1984.
D.D. 1. 1. 1. 1.

7

kept up steadily in the place but the major
part of the ~~throng~~ settled only for a time
and follow their only business of getting money)

my brother whose Name is Georg Dugon
a Native of Scotland and appears a worthy
man, provided me a horse and we rode 10 miles
to a methodist meeting the minister preached
what 40 odd years ago would have been called
a New-light sermon in New England and in front
the people of 250 or 300 in Number were great
ly moved, (and altho their was much disorder
for 3 or 4 hours for so long their meeting continued
as leaves speaking at once and 2 at least I said
fell flat to the floor in distress) yet I believe
God was really at work amongst them.

afterward I preached at another neighbourhood
at their request. I am informed that ~~our~~ have
same work has spread far in the N.E. Lord's
Counties. I returned and am to preach
my third sermon here at Petersburg this
evening. two Baptist Ministers have been
in town to day and have invited me
20 miles into the Country one to send
me a horse tomorrow and one to assist
me in travelling to visit the Churches
in this southerly part of the State after
which (if the Lord will) I purpose going
northward where I am informed a great
our work is begun among the Baptists
This Sir, is all the information I can
give at present. you see my Station
and I pray for your Brother and
serv. in the Gospel Afa Humphreys

I have lately recd. two L.

33
The Mount Pleasant
Virginia, Nov. 7.
1987.

Mr Isaac Backus
Middlebury
New England

Oct 19. Sept. 29. 1987.

Middleboro' 14 Nov. 1788.

Dear Sir, I have lately rec^d. two Letters
from the Southward, one from Elder Niham, the
Baltimore, the other from Elder Toler
of Westmoreland Virginia: in both
which I have very agreeable accounts of
the work of God in Virginia. Brother
Toler says that the work has become more
general & more powerfull in many places.

I should be exceeding glad to see you but cannot
come. My circumstances are peculiarly
difficult. If you could possibly come and
tarry one night I should be much obliged
to you. I am undetermined about going
Southward, but really desire it if circum-
stances would admit. How providence
may open the way I cant say.

Yours most heartily A. A. Hunt

If it suits for you to come tomorrow
and preach with our people the approach-
ing Sabbath I'll endeavour to go
with you people

A. Hunt's Collection
Nov. 14. 1908.

Elder Isaac Shackus

~~Leaves for Mrs
Helen~~

Middleborough

Mrs. Mary M. Hunt

Middleborough

Middletown Conn. Jan 29

Dear Sir, I returned last night from my
 Journey Westward. A comfortable, altho very
 laborious, and fatiguing journey. I went as
 far as Cohasset, 50 miles South of Philadelphia.
 At Cohasset, and its vicinity, I preached 26 times,
 the people very attentive, both Baptists & others,
 there are but 3 regular settled ministers, of any
 persuasion, for about 40 miles around, in that thick
 settled Country. Had a comfortable visit at
 New York, their difficulties have, in some
 measure subsided; and the Lord has granted them
 a revival. ~~Nothing~~ Nothing of this awakening
 appeared when I passed thro' the City westward;
 on my return, I found a number of souls under
 concern, and some had obtained deliverance, & were
 baptized, and 8 or 10 more stood ready therefor, only
 waited an opportunity. In Dorset, & Gloucester, in
 Rhode Island State, the same work is begun; also
 in that part of Mendon in this State call'd
 Chepnot-hill, all under the Ministry of Baptists.
 Last Monday evening I preached at the Meeting-
 house in Providence where I found the like work
 began. A number stayed after publick service and
 were discomfited with, about their souls. Mr. Manning
 thinks about 50 under Concern—he has lately baptized
 some, particularly David Leonardson, who is a Stud.
 at the College. Some of the scholars are fervent.
 Mr. Tinkley attends their conference meetings, and as
 I may in confidence tell you has met ^{with} a great shock
 in his mind, both about the Doctrines of Grace, and
 believers Baptism. Thus God works like himself. The
 great trials I have been under, and which remain in part,
 abridge my liberty of visiting my friends as I have
 wish'd, or I should have seen you before now. I don't expect
 I can sooner than a few weeks. If it is in your power
 you would come and see me, I shall take it a favour in
 to former friendships. If so, pray send beforehand to
 your brother, Afa Hunt.

This journey has proved very favorable to my health, I have not been so hearty since my return from Virginia. Riding seems the only exercise for me, under my bodily difficulties.

I want to know if you have parted with Dr. Hill's Exposition, if not I can put you in a way to make sale of it. Attent

Mr. Isaac Backus

Minister of the Gospel

Middleborough

A/a Hunt, Mar. 3. 1790.
Rec. Mar. 8. —
L 13.

Shilbrough 25 Feb 1788
at Capt Pitts

Dear Sir, I have just Mersey, I have been preserved
in my late journey, and return'd to my family
8th instant, and found them well. What obligation
am I under to a gracious God! My Voyage and journey
has answered every Purpose that I could Expect. I have
not been so well in health for 7 years past as at present—
have seen the wonders of Gods grace to a great degree among
the people in Virginia, and elsewhere. I have several letters
for yourself— I should be glad of a visit from you this week
if you can come, pray send by the bearer which day and I'll
endeavour to be at home. Yours respectfully. — Afa Hunt

Being so long, I have not been so hearty since my
return from Virginia. Biding, seems the only
saviour for me, under my bodily difficulties.

I want to know if you have parted with
Dr. Hill's Exposition, if not I can put you
in a way to make sale of it. Albany

Mr. Isaac Backus

Minister of the Gospel

Middleborough

A. A. Hunt, Mar. 8. 1790.
Rec. Mar. 8. —
J. C.

Ala Hunts,
Rec'd Feb. 6. 20
1488.
J. W.

Mr Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Middleboro' 8th Jan, 1791

Dear Sir, Your Letter by my son I recd., for which I thank you. The instances of mortality you mention are alarming, and of awakening comfort. Nothing has taken place amongst us very remarkable.

Our people are some of them considerably engaged to uphold meeting, and Brother Tripp has ~~eng~~ consented to supply one half the time for a given term.

You will understand by Brother Eldredge their oppression at Barnstable, and present plan of seeking redress: I cannot see the propriety of petitioning the Genl. Court on the matter, or what they will gain thereby. It appears to me that they must either commence an action in common Law against those who unlawfully distress them, or else unite to resolve to refuse payment, and then distress, and publish notice is made, to complain so loud as to be heard in the different parts of the state; and study a becoming behaviour under their sufferings. I think I should prefer the latter.

I shall allways be glad to hear from you when you have opportunity to write, mean while rest yours sincerely

Alex^r Hunt

Dear Sir I have

179

of a Hunt.
Jan. 8. 1791
Recd. that night.

Esq. Isaac Backus

Windsor

Received Jan. 10. 1791, with an order to
give Backus to pay him \$3.14.0.
8.13.
March 5. 1791, I let clear Hunt
have Backus's receipt.

Woodstock about twenty miles from
Middleborough 27. May 1791.

Dear Sir, I have sent Mr Barlow two
Letters on the Subject of your business, in
which I ~~inform him~~ by opportunities of
direct conveyance, but I have received no return.
I intend soon to go to his house, and do
the best that I can to obtain your money.
I have nothing new to Communicate — We
are in usual health, and hope it is so
with you. Yours sincerely A. A. Hurst

Elder Isaac Birkhui

Middleboro

Ms. A. 1. 1. 1.
May 24. 1911.
Rec. June 8.
J. 1. 1.

Lebanon New Hampshire Nov 15 1783

Sir Having an opportunity I Gladly Intrude it to let you
Hear from me I and my Family are well and all
hope of your acquaintance that are living that was once
from Norwich: Sir you have most Provably heard that ^{the} some
year or two past hath ben highly favor'd by the spirit of
in a most remarkable manner being pour out upon the
there & Children: in this small Town there was about 100 that
is thought to be converted but now it may be said the Gold is
come Dim & the most fine Gold changed yet it may be said that
one Remain in a measure like the one that returned out of
I am to Give Glory to God: there ~~seems~~ is a Great Fall of
ignitry since I came to this Town about five years ago when all
as Reprobated that did not fall in with the Traditions of ^{the} Father
and Believe in ^{their} Defect from Peter ^{must} ^{be} ^{License} by those that had
regular ordinations and that the Civil Law must be Exerted
for the support of their Teachers otherwise all Religion would fail
and that none may speak in a Congregation without License
and a ^{Baptist} ~~Presb~~ ^{ever} ought not to be there by no means & among
more error that that they brought with them from Home &c
but God in his Providence hath confounded in some measure
the Craftiness & Pride of men a Particular Instance is one
Thomas Baldwin some years since from Norwich Now ordained
at Concord ^{a Baptist} ~~born~~ ^{at} out of wedlock Educated at
James Forge at New Concord who cries Conviction in all that
hear him that he is a sent of God and hath a Great Gift
Doctrine hardly his equal to be found I like wife in Concord
Woodstock about twenty miles from here who is avire now
as a Baptist ^{ever} and now heard and esteem'd by those that once
as so Reprobated as above ~~in~~ ^{is} Described Sir I am more
more convinced of this Truth that it is ^{the} Holy Ghost that only
qualifies & prepare men for the ministry it is he only that
with the word that can speak it: we have some of every ^{another} Denomⁿ
Presbiterians & Congregational &c that after sound in there
positions & faithful in Dispening the work committed to them
I Sir I must Desist I had many more things to write something
of my own Trials &c but time fails at Present I must only
Close with a Desire you would when Providence permits Come
and see us - Pray for us - I am with much Esteem your
ingrave ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~hurry~~ ^{hurry}
want of snelling like
Elisha Hyde

parts - the Lord Grant that it

Hide's
1483.
15th Nov. 15th
1620 Nov. 25
8.13.

W

Backus an Elder

Isaac

att

Middleberry

Machias Falls State
6th Nov. 18th

Durham, May 29. 1780.

Dear Sir I then may Inform you that I was in Ebington
week before last, and the Lord is about a Glorious
work in that Town, and the Doors are opened for
Baptist Preaching; there was some that Desired me
to do word to your self; and Desire you in their behalf
to come again to Ebington; and Likewise for your
Encouragement to Let you know that your Labours
was Blest when you was there before one poor Soul
hath manifested already of being Converted
by your preaching — It is reported by some that
Mr Niles is much in the work, But I'm jealous and
not without some grounds, that he not in this Glorious
work But time will bring forth — I trust Dear Sir
that you have been in this blessed war too long to be
frighted at the rage of hirclings — they have
had their time of triumph, now the Lord is giving us
the field O that we may Faithfull even untill
death — If you find it in your heart to go to Ebington
pray not forget marsh Field for the Lord is about a
Glorious work there I Baptized two when I was
there and one of them formerly was a
slave

Edwell Batten

Members of Mr Shows Church but their friends
Great Shock to formality four years to serve
the most unworthy — Shannah Ingalls

2 Cds Singally

Cd May 29.
1780

Dec. May 30.

13.

William Ingalls

John Ingalls

20

Raynham, January 9th, 1801.

Dear Elder

After my Due respect, and tender regard
I write these few lines hoping they will find
you well both in body and mind as they love me
at present thro' the goodness and mercy of God.
And likewise to Inform you something of the
work of God in other parts of the Lords
Vineyard; I was at Milford the 31st Dec^r past
and Baptized one person, and there was three
of four more brought out since I was there
in the summer and I left anumber
under very great Concerns and the
Christians was the most free and open heart-
ed that ever I saw them; there seems to be
a Prospect of great Reformation in those
parts — the Lord Grant that it may be so!
Wick before I left there was a man to my
House from Framingham after me to
Go and Labour there for the Congregation
part are about settling a minister, and there
is near fifty heads of Families in the whole
part of the mission

That now Compose the baptist Society, I saw
Mr Thompson the week past and he was
there the Last Lords Day and he said there
was a bout five Hundred people out to meeting,
I am a bout to set out a journey in to those
parts I sincerely beg your prayers to God for
me that I may be faithfull and successfull
I heartily request if it may be Consistent
with your appointments that you would
come into Weynham and Give the people
several weekly lectures in my absent for
I shall not be here again under a month
I hope there are some will Go forward in
Baptism before my return I want you
and your Church should shew as much frien-
dom with the Weynham Church as possible
which may prevent some Difficulty that
may arise from some other Quarters
If it was possible that you could come
upon a Lords Day I should be Glad
And if you can come please to send word
to Mr King in Lifford that people may
have word for when you preached here before
The people had not suitable warning

Yours
J. Thompson

I have many things to write and I only Give you
the Little of my mind - the most that I am afraid
of at present is Divisions among our selves or our
Denomination and of Doors being opened to persons
to preach that are not in good Standing and
So bring the Gospel into Contempt. I am not
Satisfied with the wades Standing But pray
keep this hint to your self and be upon a look out
I see Elder Nelson Left Monday and I am in
Great hopes that the Little Church in Norton
will come into fellowship with EL Nelsons
and if it doth it will Put a stop to the old
Division that Eld. G. used to keep up which
I have Used all my Influence in this Reformation
to kill ~~on~~ and all my fears that I have
of the Raynham Church at present is that this
I fear that old cruel Crooked Serpent will
make his appearance under the notion of a very
Large Liberty in the Arguments of Gifts which
works Under Ground and is as Cruel as the Grave
towards the Dear ministers of Christ But Let
be Strong in the Lord and the power of his might
and Let us act for God a few moments and he that
comes will come and will not tarry Even so Come
Lord Jesus a men.

I of this
But pray I keep this hint to your self and you in your wisdom know what part to pursue
yours in Gospel bonds
Elkanah Ingalls

To Day I Baptized Hannah White & Polly Higgins and
was a good Day blessed be the Lord for it

E. Ingalls's
Letter Jan. 21. 1781.

Pa. Jan. 28.
S. B.

Isaac Pickens
Middleborough

happy is the man who commendeth not himself in the things
he allows.

I received those lines which you sent to me, and since my reading
Church Affairs, is so much out of your sight, I shall write
following lines, to hold up that Light, which appears to me to be
true and clear. You cited me to those truths in Heb. 13. 7. 17. which
rise as high as you, and those who are wrong to the Ministers of
Christ, say as it is to him; but the word of the Lord gives as solemn
charge to the Ministers to stand in his Council, and feed his Flock,
and to the Church to obey them. If Elder Hix had stood in the
council of God, and led his dear Flock, they would not have
been in the condition they were in when this blessed work of
began, Elder Hix was ^{not} in the Gospel-Trade. Those things I write
you, not to hurt his Character. He has left his Church every ^{2 with} summer
to belong to it, to go to work to his trade, to add to his temporal Inter-
ests. Now or else I have known him to go away two or three months
at a time; and that too without leave from his Church. I should that
might maketh manifest, and a Minister that loves this world
more than they do the church of God, either riches Honours or
squares, they are not in a capacity to lead and feed the Flock of God.
that goeth to war, entangleth himself with the affairs of this
world. I am glad you intend to go by divine Rule, and so do I, and so do
you to several places of the truths of God, that I should be glad if you
would peruse. Jer. 23. 1. 2. 3. 4. Isa. 63. 5. Isa. 60. 1. to the end of the Chap.
62. 3. 6. 7. Jer. 51. 18. Isa. 51. 10. 14. 20. You said I was a leading
man in excluding Elder Hix. I was chosen by the Church to preach
the everlasting Gospel to them, and I had a great Concern for
Hix, and all the rest that did not stand in the Fellowship of me
and the Church. I wanted Elder Hix to lead forth his Church in green pastures
and did I try to turn him out of his place, it would be the
sple of my soul, to see him and you, and all the Ministers of
this England, to go before them like ^{sheep} ^{he} ^{that} have no shepherd, but the blessing
of God's blessed worke will go on according to his Eternal
counsels! and if you, or I, or any other man stands in the way
of the Sons rising, we had better be at home with our Lord!
I said there was no warrant in scripture for the abolishing
of the church if any of the brethren be fit to communicate
with congregational brethren, I say if there is not no rule for that
to be granted in a church of Christ, than a member must
be disciplined for so doing, for if a Gospel discipline is not
Tim. 2. 14.

kept up in a church, it will go to ruin as fast as a nation would that
did not put her land into execution; I am informed that you have
allowed the same liberty in your church as we have granted in ours
for you received sister Campbell and sister Howard to your communion
without any retraction for what they had done in communing with
brother Winchester's Church. How do you answer for such conduct?
You said I came down to Elder Hix's in great swelling words, all
that I said, was that the Council had stricken against the work of
God, and cause of God, and the Church of Christ and thus I was
confident in and bore witness for God against such dark conduct.
You said I brought no degree of light for what I said. there is this
text came with it into my mind. If they would hear all this and
the Prophets neither will they hear this one was raised from the Dead.
If all the light that was held up that Day at the Council was darkness
to you, I do not know which way I shall take to convey light to you.
Elder Hix and those that were with him, are not in the Gospel of Jesus
Christ; for your church said when they came to act sitting apart
Satanial hands as an Elder over a church at Sacil that they
intended to know who they were in fellowship with for they were not
in fellowship with any such people that did not pray in their
families, and I say amen to that, I believe that some
of them that you called to be the church are not in the practice
of that blessed duty. I have laboured a great deal to bring the
Church into that practice, and I wish it was practiced more
amongst the saints throughout the land. I was glad when I saw
you nice for the encouragement of the same. Why you know
Elder Baehrs that Persons that do not acknowledge God in
in all their ways that do not pray their night and morning
Now and that do not acknowledge God at meal-times are
more like heathens than they are like the followers of the Lamb.
So I would be glad that you would take heed to your ways and spee-
ly in consulting churches for God will call you to an account how
you act. after God hath removed his candle stick they are in
Darkness and they that look there for Christ it is like those
who looked for Christ in the Tombs after he had risen. So in the
Name of Jesus Christ I warn you to take heed how you act
in bidding Persons God's speed that hath broke their Covenant
and especially manner in your upholding brother Winchester.
* Luk. 16. 31. + Hev. 2. 5. † Joh. 20. ‡ constituted

Now he hath left his church for he cannot profit where he
now stands without being under the Discipline of Heaven and
I warn you in the name of Jesus that you do not fellowship him
in such Disorder. from one that wishes well to you and the whole
Israel of God. Elhanah Ingalls.

What Sifters in these Times
Is light and truth to show;

Sir if you doubt I can make out
That what I've wrote is true.

May mighty love inspire your heart,
to read these lines in fear
that you may act the noble part,
of one who is a sinner.

This letter Elhanah
delivered to me with his
own hand on Dec. 23. 1792.

J. B.

I transcribed a copy
~~of it~~
I read it next day
to Eld. Hix's church
and left a copy of it
with them.

To Elder
Isaac Beckus.
In Middleborough

Inglis
Dec 23. 1772.

Honoured Father this sheweth —

that we are destitute of a pastor or a teacher
in this place, which place has ben settled
this 14 or 8 years and we have not had but
few few sermons preached unto us and we are now
in great need of a minister amongst us which I think
is an incumber upon duty on us to trye to get one
forthermore

For our Prayers are unto you to assist us in this
matter. I am the subscribers I desire that you
would trye to get or provide one for us I direct
him to this place for we are very wicked in
this place and we want sum minister that will
direct us in the right way — the chief
part of them that preach in these parts
do not I sende the law from the gospel they
are Iarch Lantons

I am Recommend us to Mr Hunt who
was our old pastor and tell him that we shoud
be very glad to see him I and it is our desire
that he would cum and pay us a visit &c

Mr Backus I am we wold hartely wish
that you wold cum and pay us a visit for we
do want aregulator amongst us

I am it is our desire that you wold send us
word concerning this matter Pray for us in
this place

This from your Loving Brotheren until
Ieth Levi Jackson — No 4 ought 84

John Willis

Lemuel Jackson

Isaac Jackson

1790

To Mr
Isaac

Backus

Jackford Willis
Aug. 17. 1790.

To Mr
Isaac Backus
In Middlebury
His Dear Sir

Sister Appointed

Eldor Beechit Sir I would Inform you that I have Brethren-
 to y^e Church for a Rehiring Under My Difficulty and there is Hunt-
 for that has granted it to me and we have Belied Upon you and
 Eldor Green and Eldor Southgat to be y^e Men and to meet att y^e House
 of Deacon Dresser of Thompson the Tenth Day of October Next
 Sir I shuld intreat you Not to fail of Cumming and I would inform
 you that I have Muded for my Place where I want to Live a boy 12 miles
 and y^e Reason is that I Did not send y^e Brethren that y^e Church granted to
 West becaus they wost send it by one of y^e Brethren to Eldor Greens
 Which failed and caused Me to write this so so more but I mane you
 Loving brother In y^e Lord

Benjamin Jacobs

enter
as before

Ben^d Jacobs

Rec. Oct. 2. J. B.

But I can't answer it.

from the work of the man

Beloved friend June 1. 1765
with my Christian respects to you and
yours I would let you know I received yours
dated march 31. 1765 I receive your token
I am sorry to hear of the conduct
of Brother Starns may it be a warning
to us all the Lord keep us humble
we are all well as I hope you are it is
a thing among us pray for us that the
word of God might have increase and
glorified we have had a deep search
of heart about laying on of hands
think the scripture dont make it a
church practice upon private members
Conclude not to practice it as we have
It is a grate labor in the minds
many I wish you well and yours my prayer
God for you and the Israel of God is your
might be saved I could not grant your
request for our letter did not come in a good

our next ^{general} meeting of at Cumberland Friday
before the last Sabath in September
the Lord preserve us all in the love of
God in the patient waiting for and coming
of Christ So increase your well wishes
In Christ

Whitman Jacob

Mr

Ac

Isaac Backus

in
Middleborough

with Care

Ed B

June 14 65
Recd June 4

From Mr Jacob

Rev. and Dear Sir,

A Stranger to your Name - A stranger to your person - A stranger to every address from you - and having no particular requisition to make - have undertaken to transmit you a few lines - must acknowledge without an explanation of the motives inducing me there to - I would exhibit a strangeness of conduct.

To be brief - there is at my house on his way to new England - Br. Brain who favours me with giving a passage to some letters - for friends to the northward - he with a degree of engagedness - solicited my sending you few lines - I felt reluctant in consequence of being an utter stranger to you - this did my friend into a delineation of your character - of fullness and services - which he had no sooner given the portrait of - and I concluded to write

Wild and wicked in my youth - and happy as I thought my self in the pursuit thereof - was elop'd in my career to destruction by a powerfull visitation of sin and wrath - destroying were my conflictors untill my Burden said, ^{was} out at liberty - and the gladdning rays of salvation and peace - from the son of god manifested unto my wounded spirit - soon did I enter upon the work of the ministry - many months did not pass before execution and improvement - became my lot for preaching the gospel - my dear Redeemer - my Brethren Brethren were denied access unto me - with powder they tryed to burn me up - a peck of Indian pepper did with brimstone the mischief would burn under the prison door almost to the suffocating of me - at which time I could truly say none of these did move me - neither did I count my life dear unto me - cause the presence of my the blessed Jesus was with me - which made my little limbo - a palace unto me - in which I remained sixteen weeks - and only six years more have I been engaged in my masters service in the ministry -

Now Dear Sir - from this detail respecting my self - I must return to you - and tell you - that when I heard you not only preached Christ as a saviour - but as a judge also - I loved you as a fellow labourer in the gospel - when informed of your long continuance in the Lords vineyard I admired your character - when made acquainted with your usefulness and labours - to promote the honour of Christ - and the interest of his cause - this wond'ring heart felt this desire - that a life of such usefulness might be continued - and never out live it service - through indisposition I must bid you fare well - as I never expect to see you - on this side the grave - may you serve your master faithfully - may you end your day in the triumph of life - and on the day of his appearing - shine forth as a star of the first magnitude - these Brethren well I must - you and know you -

Where ——— Transported in rapture and lost in a maze
Adoring with love, and in wonder we'll praise
While glories afresh are presenting to view
We'll hail the redeemer Eternity through

James Ireland

Elder Isaac Backus —

State of Massachusetts — In the
Town of Middleburgh —

Forwrd by Br Brain
15

is miles from New York.
Swedrock County about

Mr. Ireland is an

James Ireland,
Sec. June 28. 1797.
823.

Answered, July 1. 1797.

Dear Brother,

Frederick - Virginia -

May 8th 1799

I received your favour - sometime in the
ear ninety eight - in the conclusion of which - a request is
made for the favour of a few lines again - which request I at
present embrace with pleasure - enjoying the favour of Br
Brome to give it a conveyance to you -

But what shall I write to my Friend - Religion - True
real - vital Experimental Religion - That excellency of man
that dignifies the rational spirit - and animates its possessor
into a conformity to the great Author thereof - Alas its lovely
exercise is too visibly abated - and plain indications of
an intermission in the care and watchfulness of many who
have embarked in its cause - is conspicuous amongst us -
But this is not general - and where it is - I hope amongst
many this deadness is lamented - notwithstanding we have
names in oaths who have not defiled their garments - the
glory of our lovely master - the honour of his name and the
interest of his cause - is exceeding dear unto them - the
labours of a number of his Disciples he is owning whilst
~~some~~ owners in different parts of our State are bowing
to the Redeemers scepter - and submitting to his
Righteous government -

There is at this present juncture - every considerable
movement among the people in Virginia - - (turn over

never were their minds so agitated before, nor
more eager in the pursuit of knowledge - but it is not
spiritual knowledge - but political - not about their eternal
but their political salvation - (this being all the paper I have at
present - prevents me from being a little copious - whoever the
prevailing opinion in virginia - is - that the grand art line of
our federal Constitution is exceeded - bills passed not sanctioned
by it - powers transferred to the executive - that was by the
constitution limited to the Legislative department - by which the
sovereignty of the states ~~given~~ and their general powers would
be annihilated and the general government terminate in one
perfect consolidation - which would end in ~~He - He -~~

My dear Sir - let me pursue government a little farther -
I mean the government of our dear Emmanuel - who honored
you with his mission and sent you as one of his envoys
in september forty six - to negotiate matters of infinite
importance between god and saul - with regard to him, the
Church triumphant will give up - every true member of the
invisible Kingdom of Christ grace will acknowledge - and your
worth my self will agree - that the powers of Zion's King are
not specific and limited - but general - that his subjects are
willing that Legislative - judicial and executive powers should
center in him - that he may Legislate for us and we have
nothing to fear - but most satisfied he will conduct our cause
thru all the tempest of a militant state - until he pilot
us safely into the peaceful Harbor of triumphant rest

With regard to my self - I labour under a complication
of complaints my imprisonment and sufferings in cellprizes
for my dear and lovely master has placed those complaints
again me that will never terminate untill death release me
my warm and zealous engagements in the early days of
my ministry over hill and valley - those land and water
rapids to every alternative of the weather has procured me
the Rheumatism - yet blessed be the name of the Lord who
is pleased at times - to mingle with my cup of affliction
a spice of his consolation - which bears me up and enables
me to assume the language of resignation and say, it is good
for me that I was afflicted -

As a number of remarkable circumstances has attended the course
of my life & on the stage of time - have had it in contemplation
to put them together with my conversion and sufferings
for the gospel (if the Lord permit) - as you informed me you
had been made acquainted with my persecutions. I purpose
to send you a regular statement thereof, if I am spared to visit
you again

When I reflect how long you have laboured in our Lord's vine-
yard - that you are as ancient in the gospel as 80 years, as I
am as to natural life - am ready to cry out and say -
- Brother - your Campaign is nearly closing - that it will
not be long before the Captain General of your salvation
will sound a retreat and say retire my servant to
your everlasting quarters - where I humbly hope to meet
you - then Ireland will perfectly know Bacchus whom he never
saw upon Earth - untill which time I rest your fellow labourer
in the gospel of Christ

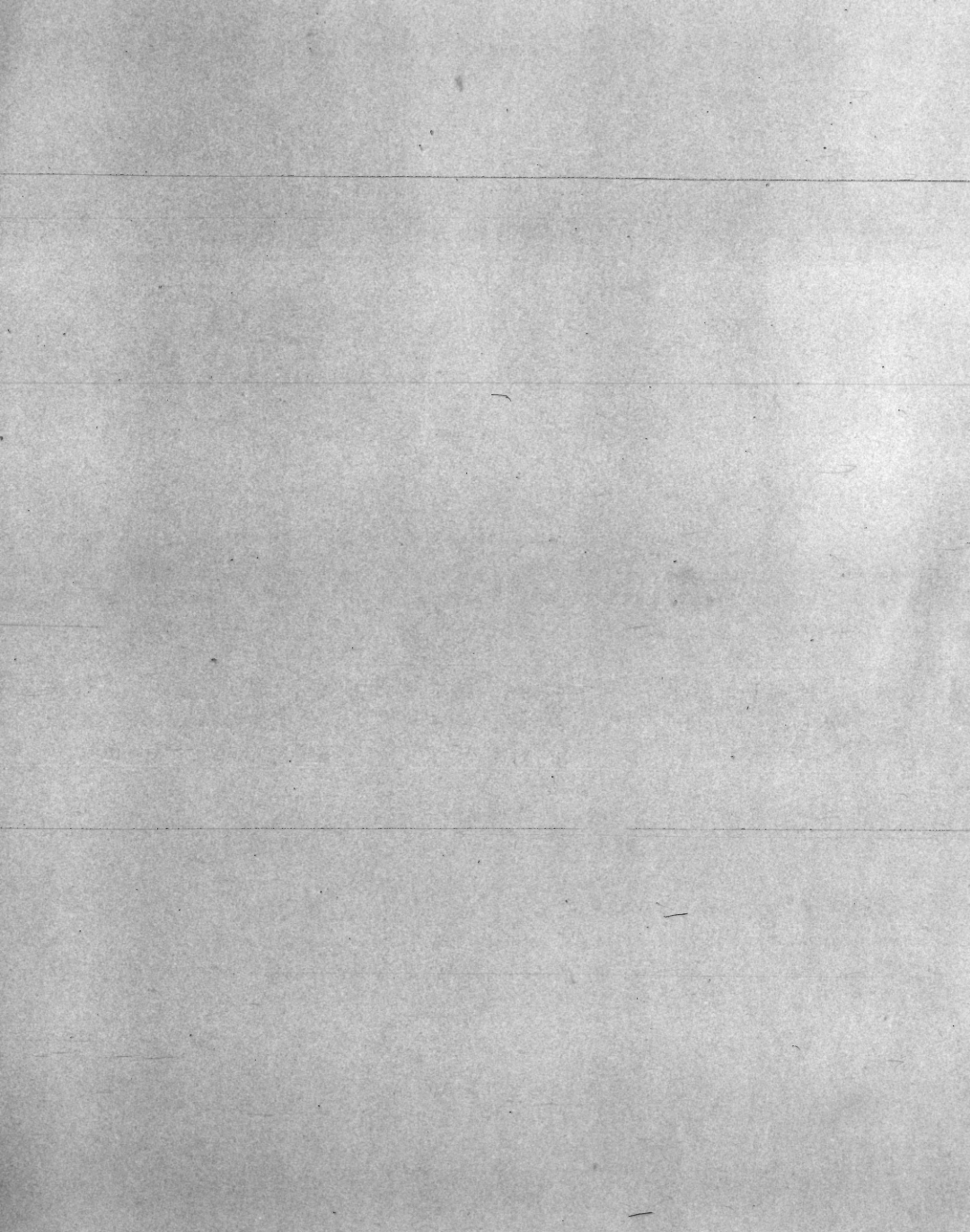
Yours
A B I hope you will favour
with a few lines again

James Ireland Jr

Answered July 5. 1799.

Jane Ireland,
May 8. 1799,
Recd. July 3.
J. H. S.

To John
Jane Ireland
forwarded by Mr. Brown



178
Middleborough April 21 1778: Monday, 17th March

Dear Sir

I came up from the cape yesterday, upon a little
Business, intend returning on Friday next, With Dear Hunt, who is going
to Harwich, I should call to see & Talk with you a little about affairs,
but fearing it would be Burdensome, at this Season, on account of Fetter &
I write this, just to tell you of my Standing, Success, & This Grace
In the First of this Month, I Was at Wellfleet, had Six Meetings at Mr Stordens,
one at Mr Dale Coley, ~~and at Mr Stordens~~ I Read that protest there & got a
few Signers also at Harwich, which Church have given me an Invitation to
Preach to them every other Sabbath, when they have the Use of the Meeting House,
and Mr Dear Hunt Battered 4 Persons, ~~at Mr Stordens~~ Bythia Lewis, about by Lately awakened
Anna Lovel & Lydia Ewers, Mr Seths Daughters, Two others, Sarah Lumber,
about 20, & Mrs Donham, about 32, Expect to be Battered next Week, as they
live at Hianus & it being a stormy Day, could not get ^{to meeting} and Dear Hunt,
left us so soon, but he intends to Visit, Sister Island in his Day from Harwich.

I find I love a good Master & seem to have given me a greater
Engagedness in the Cause of Christ, as I perceive his Spirit Accompanying
his Truths, My Unfitness & Unworthyness at Times is Discouraging to me,
but I have a greater & greater Love given me to perishing Souls
Inasmuch that for Weeks Together, "Go Preach to the Lost Sheep of the
House of Israel" has been in my Thoughts, Especially when alone, it has seemed
to me I could think of nothing Else, Lately speaking in Harwich from these
words, "Endure Hardness as Good Soldiers of Jesus Christ, I had such a View of
the Work of Jesus Christ, In Redeeming Lost Souls, & of the Blessedness of
Working Together with him, That it seemed as if I could have told
the People, I was Willing to endure all Things for the Elects Sake
that they might obtain the great Salvation in Jesus Christ &
Several young people in ~~the~~ both Neighbourhoods, of Hyannis & the Island
are Under very serious religious Impressions, & for I expect, if
it more, those Language is, Lord what Will thou have me to do, and soon
to hear, "Arise, & Submit to that solemn Ordinance which represent, as in
a figure, The Dashing away of our Sins by the Blood of Christ"
Benjamin Lovels Son, William, has been sick about 3 Weeks, has been Under great
trouble of Mind, for Slighting the Gospel, by his own Confession, & has repeatedly
Prayed in the Family, (Never known before) With Uncommon Earnestness & concern
of Mind. They have not forgot your Visit, but often speak of it, & often wish
to see you again, I lament my stupid frame of mind, I Long for more
of the Power of Godliness, & that my slay wood chaff husks & bubble may consume
I humbly thank the Dear Redeemer, ~~that~~ for the hopes I have that his Spirit is
Every day my soul more & more, & from your Son Jonathan Safford

John Jacob Backus
Minister of the Gospel
Middlebury

Jon^a Jeffers
letter Apr. 21. 1778.

Rec^d. Apr. 26.

J. B.

Barnstable May 23 1778

Dear Sir

you may remember in my Letter
from Mr. Macomber, I wrote of two persons at Hiamus
that were prevented by the Storm, from going to Oyster Island
when Mr. Hunt was there, since that Elder Lewis has
Baptized one of them, Sally Lumber about 20, I believe years of Age
she gave good Satisfaction, & in her confession spoke of her
being first awakened at a Meeting when I spoke from
Revelations 22:14: the other of the Two. I mentioned to you
offered herself & was received by those present, but it was
thought proper to defer it till all were together
This Week two more at Hiamus Jane & Elizabeth Hallett
come out in great Clearness, & real Solidity of Mind
to speak of their Experience of a Saving Change. are both
remarkably zealous in speaking of what Jesus Christ
has done for them, & witnessing to the Truths of the Gospel,
their parents are great Opposers, & themselves but
recently awakened, one of them in a Letter to me: writes
her first Enlightenings, her Heart being wrought upon
by the Spirit of God, as I was speaking from that
Text in Deuteronomy 33:27. Several others appear to
profess to be, serious Seekers of an Interest in Christ,
many begin to oppose, one came & asked me what Right
I had in Mr. Shaw's Dominions & with great Earnestness
& anger said I was an Intruder, (these two Sisters I
last spoke of one of them is 14 the other 19 years of Age)
this Number since last Fall is 9 Persons Baptized & 3
pounded. Is a general Time of Health among us.
Miss Martins Brothers Wife hanged herself Week before last,
in Despair, about 3 Mile from Oyster Island - I have gathered
your Books together all I can. for as you are known here
they are (& especially your History) of special Service to me
against the Opposers. who will not give up. but as they are
Beat Back Inch by Inch, but truths are self Evident
My respects to your Family & to Deacon Shaw & Joseph Jonathan Jaffers

Recd June 9.
J. B.

Gen. Jefferson
May 23. 1778.

Dear Sir

Halifax June 8. 1779

Inclosed is a Letter to
Elder Lewis, If you please to forward it
The Constitution of this State of Vermont
is Liberty of Conscience, & is Catholic
free, very much like that of Rhode Island.
I have by Public Invitation of this
^{Presbytery} to this destitute People sometime
& very frequently in other Places.
The harvest here is truly plentiful
but this state is but poorly supplied
with able & faithful Laborers.

I am & have been greatly favored by
the sprinkling Denomination, who ever
take Pains to recommend me to each other.
I enjoy Health, & what is better, I
triest I have the Presence of Christ &
his Spirit with me, & much inward Strength
speaking to persons concerned for their Souls
travel for improvement, & to gain Experience
left the Cape intirely on this account, for
had the kindest treatment there, I could desire
but I know my weakness, & glory in my Cross
& expect to be at the Association. I thank you
greatly honor you Sir & remain Your Obedient Servant
I wish my Friends upon me

Jon^d Telford Esq
June 8. 1779.

Colo^d
Mr Isaac Buckus
Minister of the Gospel
Reading N^h
Middlebury

Middleboro Nov^r 18 1779

Dear Sir

I write from New Hinds
Now I hear you are going to the Cape
I take this opportunity to desire you to
make mention of me to them, That I have
Journeged all Summer in the New State
of Vermont on Hampshire Grants have been
mong much of a religious work in
many places have just arrived this day
to Middleboro go on Rhode Island to morrow
or next Day — I after a short
stay in Newport, I purpose to
visit my friends upon the Cape
And O that I may return to them
in the fulness of the Blessing of the
Gospel of Peace, Dear Sir I have
heard up Country, that the King of Lion
the head of all his churches, is visiting
ours, with a time of refreshing, I desire
to rejoice with you, — I should write
to the Cape, But the Messengers
waiting, My Affection to all Sister friends
from J^r Unworthy to Jonathan Saffers

James
Jeffers

W. McDermott

Minister of the Gospel
for

So

Jon. Jeffers
Letter Nov. 18. 1779.

Rec. Dec. 5.

Barnstable October 14, 1780

Dear Sir

If Elder Backus pleases to read a
few lines from ^{me}, I honor you greatly as a minister
of the Gospel, a Father to the Churches in Care & Service,
more than a Father in tenderness to young ministers,
Love to ~~all~~ ^{all} that love the Lord Jesus Christ,
your name & remembrance will be blessed when you
are gone to receive the great Recompense & rewards
not of Debt but of Grace, for fruit of faith & labor of love,
Neither is there any that can supply your place,
to serve the General Cause of primitive Gospel Religion
with that Skill & Integrity, and that S. P. M. I. T.
found in Elder Backus, the more I read your Books,
the more acquainted with your Manner of Writing
clear & Conclusive, the more I Love you as a good &
worthy, a knowing and a faithful Man of this Age,
I do not write flattery, but I write my heart,
I throw in my mite, my poor Witness, to Encourage
Elder Backus, not to be weary in well doing,
at age, worthy Sir, will feel more Gratitude towards
than the present, Rising Churches & Souls yet
born Temporally & Spiritually, will bless and honor
your Renowned Name, with greater & many more
now, than you have justly honored, the heroic Reverend
Elder Williams with, Go on & prosper in & thro' the Name of Christ
as to myself, I make it my home in Dister Island for the present
may come down upon the cape & elsewhere, Elder Simmons Lewis
number 3 Dickerson, have preached here since Elder Backus
with no success towards additions, I still Endeavour to Preach
labor faithfully as I am called to, in word & doctrine & private
motion & but our number is small, your Friends opposing much as they can
we Regards to Mrs. Backus & all the family giving love to you & yours
I be I may get more signers, Yours &c

John
Wm. Smith
Minister of the Gospel
Middleborough

Jon. Jeffers
Letter Oct. 14.
1780.

Recd. Oct. 31.

J. B.

Honored Sir

Dear

Harwich Janry 4th 1782

I really think it my duty from Time to Time to render some account to yourself of my proceedings, as unto one on whom (under Christ) is the care of all care of all the churches, God, who directeth all our steps, hath so ordered in his good providence, my present residence in this Town, I left Oyster Island as Mr Lewis did, they had nought against me, nor against them, I Preach'd to the East, and since, on a visit there, I humbly adore and acknowledge God in his Works of Creation, preservation, & Religion, the Time when by whom, are of himself all from God from God only, & overrules & governs, & when ones work is done, another is sent, I have in times past, Entertain'd Low thoughts of such people round the Country, who were, very steady in liking, as well as changable in living Religion, but I do believe God overrules, & as Mr. Edwards observed in his Book of 5 parts, that God makes use of these things, in the spread of Truth, carrying on the affairs of his Kingdom, Isaac Case I do believe has been own'd of God in his Work at Oyster Island, I believe he was sent there, I hope I am sent here, may be Lord still be with us both, I think our Society, rather increases, we have now the whole of the meeting house, & have a stated Wednesday Lecture at Deacon Chases, O that God would pour down his holy Spirit from above, & revive his Work in Wrath & Mercy, It seems sometimes, as tho' all things were now ready, Dear Sir you have borne the burden of the Day, you have been strong in divine things, you have that excellent Faith, still to endure, &c &c &c Major Tho. Bourne in Sandwich, & at Monument or Jesse Barlow in Pocasset desired me to invite Mr Backus in the Name of the people, in perticular remember it is the Day to the Vineyard, Yours most sincerely Jon: Jeffers

to me proposals, Till the Books come, for it may be I may get more Signers, Yours
Jon: Jeffers

J. A.
Mr Isaac Backus
Minister of the Gospel
Middleborough

Jon^a. Jeffers Letter.
Jan. 4. 1782.

Rec^d. Feb. 10.

J. W.

Dear Sir

Norwich June 1785

We have had a very Encouraging
And Refreshing Time in Elder Mdens Visit.
We heard of the Miraculous Preservation of
your Precious Life last Winter, which we
take as ^a kind of signal that your Work is not
yet Done, O Elder Backus, who can supply
your Place, either in Defence of the Gospel
Its pure Ordinances, with your Keen Pen
or in your Public Labours, Round the Country
And your going Once a Year Down the Cape
But, however, Father Elijah, Tho' we
are not so happy, as to be favored with your
Personal Ministry, among us, Please to send
us your Weighty & Powerful Letters, Drop among
us the Mantle of your Zealous Spirit, In your
Heartly & Loving Epistles, Instructing & Edifying.
How Rejoicing it would be to us, if Elder
Backus, could come, & see us, & but once more,
Please Sir, to try to come this fall, Early

I hear send you money for
five Books, three are come, I subscribe
for 7, Please to send the Other 4, soon as
may be, Perhaps Elvera Hunt can bring them
Please to send them direct to me, & then I can
put the money Directly, But people don't seem
to be willing to pay, not till the Books come down
I keep the proposals, till the Books come, for it
may be I may get more Signers, Yours
Benth Jeffers

Dr
Mr Isaac Bruchus
Minister of the Gospel
Walden Mass.

Jon^d Jessen June
1785.

Rec^d June 25.

J. B.

Hamwich Dec 3 1787

Dear Sir

It is now a long time since
I have either heard from or seen Elder Backus,
your history I have not been able to sell, It is safe
to have been hoping to see Elder Backus long since
like, you have heard, I have left Deacon Clarke,
meeting house & preach now, ^{a year past} above, at the Precinct
I gave ^{some} offence to Deacon Clarke, intently in my
simplicity, on the score of his Deaconship
he is pretty much Governor in the church
by the help of two Members, ^{one} who I had
removed for hard Drinking, the other
for dishonesty in trade, a Temur begun
something thrown out, not against my
Moral Character, but only matter of their
Opinion, as to my call to preach, so I asked my
Commission, & the precinct where I live, having
made Inquiry, what it was for, directly invited
me to preach for them, to a larger Society
I leave to invite any of our Ministers there
It is now above a year since I have
preached for them, your Fellowship is increasing
I send this by Elder Lewis, now down
among us, & Preaching to both Neighborhoods
I should be Exceeding Glad to see Elder Backus
having thoughts of Ordination at large
Mr Nickerson has quite run out & gone off
I conclude with My Love to yourself
& family & all your People

Yours
J. Jeffers

Dr
Mr Isaac Backus
Minister of the Gospel
Middleborough

Mr. Jeffers,
Dec. 3. 1789.

Recd. Dec. 21.
J. B.

Panthers River Mississippi Territory Virginia March 6th 1799

Dear Brother in the Lord

I gladly embrace one more opportunity of corresponding with you by letter: hoping to find you in great Tranquility thro' the tender mercy of God our Heavenly Father-- I had the happiness to receive your's sent by brother Boone, & Rejoice to find you Earnestly looking out & long-
=ing for the approach of the glorious morning of the Latter Day of Glory--
=more than they who watch for the Morning;-- Altho' agreeable to natural appearances at this time in this Country the Prospects appear Gloomy on Every side; Altho' Iniquity is greatly abounding in our Land & the Love of many waxing cold; Yet may we hope & Quietly wait for the Salvation of God; for as the hour before day break is commonly the darkest time of the Night, so when darkness covers the Earth & Groop darkness the People we may comfortably Expect the bright appearance of the Sun of Righteous-
=ness whose Radiant beams will soon dispel the darkness of Benighted souls, so that those who now sit in darkness may see a great light--

With the greatest thankfulness to the God of all Glory; I can Inform thee Brother, that amidst the general Sanguor in Religion; & amidst the Abounding Iniquity of these days; Yea amidst the Darkness of In-
=fidelity-- While Deism & Atheism; the vaunting Goliaths of this age, are boasting their Enormous size & Gigantic Strength & Blasphemously defy-
=ing the Armies of the Living God-- Yet (Blessed be God) there have been & still are, some small tho' sweet, Revivals in different Neighbourhoods of this & adjacent Counties-- I have also observed that Congregations who attend on Preaching of the Word, have been considerably larger this winter than usual. & at times have appeared to be uncommonly melted under the word Preached--

Pardon my freedom Brother I have taken the liberty to write freely to you, I cannot say many things being but a Babe in Christ, Yet I would gladly cultivate a Correspondance with my Senior Brethren in different parts of this Continent & Should be very thankful for your communications when ever you have leisure from more Necessary Services: I conclude with my most Ardent desires to see some of our Elder Brethren from the Northward come amongst us I am persuaded it would be to our Great Edification

and consolation in the Lord - Your age & indefatigable industry in the
Ministry may justly exclude you from such a tedious journey - Yet
Brother we hope you will intercede for us with some of our brethren
who may be of ability to visit us - I most humbly Request your
Ardent wishes at the Throne of Grace for
Dear Brother,

The least of your fellow laborers in the

Gospel Bonds

John Jenkins

Answered July 8. 1799.

John Jenkins

Mar. 6. 1799

Recd. July 3.
J. B.

~~The~~

~~The~~ ~~man~~

Honored Sir I hope you Will not forget
me at the throne of grace for I stand in need
of the prayers of Gods dear Children oh What
obligations I am under to Live to the Glory of God Dear
Sir I pray to God that he Would Give me every Grace
of his Blessed Spirit & that need do I stand in of pain
and Grace and of passions and all others that God
is able and willing to Give I hope God Will enable me
to run the race that is set before me With diligence
and passions for I see Cant Live Without the assistance
of God for the world and flesh and devil are too strong for
me Without Gods strength I am shure I shal be over-
come Dear Sir I Cant Love you enough for your kindness
Dear Mr Bownd and to me I Cant pay you But I
Will Dear Sir pray for me

might be ... to my scripture ...

Reuno M^r Prakes

Recd at Boston

June 20. 1763

D. B.

This was presented
to me with a pair of
gloves indorsed by me
Mary Johnson at
Boston on June 20. 1763.
A young woman that
I baptised 4 day before

Mary Johnson's
letter June 20. 1763.

28. 7. 63.

Dear Sir

I lately had an opportunity of reading your valuable Church History in which I found vol. III. pag. 139. you gave a hint of the division which took place in the Third Baptist church and society in Middleborough in the year 1763. which terminated in the removal of their pastor from them.

I there also found the whole of the blame laid upon the pastors wife for an act of hers or evil behaviour which led the pastor into a snare.

From this statement Sir those who are unacquainted with the transactions may be at a loss to determine whether it was some daring atrocious act or only some misconduct done unintentionally.

In vol. II. pag. 300. it is true there is something which intimates that said division was occasioned by whisperers. It is therefore Dear Sir earnestly wished as a favor that a particular statement of the facts as they proved agreeable to the scripture rule might be made to me being fully confident that you are in possession of the records and papers of that church relating to these things, as your voucher otherwise it is presumed a Father in Zion never would have undertaken contrary to the gospel rule to wound the feelings of a family by such a publication.

In the first place then may I ask what was the particular crime or evil behaviour which led the pastor into the snare and what that snare was.

And secondly whether the matter of offence was ever carried before the church agreeable to the ^{only} gospel rule Matth XVIII. or whether

It was upheld in before the church
and then afterwards before the council
(which is to after the case) in a method
as little known amongst the laws of christ
kingdom as Infant sprinkling

And thirdly Whether the pastors wife ever
refused to make that satisfaction which
the gospel requires in such cases

I shall most cheerfully do pay the postage
of any letters of correspondence from you
upon this or any other subject which you
may be pleased to favor me with

If you are pleased they may be directed
to Joseph Jones Esqr Westmoreland (N. York)
to be left at the post office at Utica

When Mrs Jones died in the year 1766.
she left six children four of them now
reside in this vicinity one in Berkshire
county and one at Dryden about 70 miles
to the westward of this Three of whom
are now members of regular standing
in Baptist churches

I am yours dear Sir &c

Joseph Jones.

Westmoreland
Aug^t 20th 1804

Joseph Jones, Esq.
Aug. 20. 1804
Recd. 20. 1805
9. 23.

Answered, Dec. 21. 1805.

Dear Sir,

Providence & Company 10 & 1100

You are earnestly Requested to supply the Quilt one Lord Day
in Mr Mannings Absence — we shall want Supplies the first and
second in June, if you can in all probability attend please to fix the day
and if it would not be too much trouble to you I should be exceedingly glad you
would by some means get early word to Mr. Pinks or Mr. Hunt of
who are also desir'd to supply; I trust between you there will be no
may be supplied the above two Lord Day in June, viz the 1st & 2nd —
Please to send the earliest word possible.

You may direct Mr. Nicholas Brown, or to the Office your Friend Mr. ...

In behalf of the Community
I P. P. P.
John D. Jones clerk

Eliza Ann Barker

Brother Thomas in ...

John Henry Jones
Providence

May 18. 1783.

Recd. May. 26.

Mr. John D. Jones

Providence

Manning's Letter of 6. 6. 83

Sir,

Pennycuik May 24th 1834

I think it is time for us to renew our acquaintance. However these lines have another object in view. I have too favours to ask of you, one for myself, another for a friend in Old England. I received the other day a long letter from Mr. Joshua Thomas, one of our Missionaries in Cleveland Shire, who makes particular enquiries after you. Of your history, which he very anxious to see. He observes that in page 55, &c. of your first Vol. you make mention of removal of Mr. John Thomas & several of his friends from France to America in the year 1793, & that they took their Church book with them. Now as Mr. Thomas is writing a history of the Baptists in Wales, he is apprehensive that these records of Wales would be of particular service to him, in casting light on his subject. He is therefore very desirous of seeing them, & promises to return them safe; or at least a transcript of them, if they should not be too long. For this favour we know of no one more proper to look to than Mr. Barker. If you can possibly oblige our good friend in this matter you may send it by any conveyance from Dover, or if preferred in the following manner. To Mr. Joshua Thomas at Leominster in Cleveland Shire. To the care of Mr. Timothy Thomas, Leaton Square London. Brother Thomas in London is son to our brother Leominster, & by what they both write to me perceive they want, either or both of them, he

very fond of a correspondence with you, my Brother.
The favour I have to ask for myself is, one of father
and century sermons, if you can conveniently find
one: but perhaps that may be difficult.
As to I state of Religion among us, I have no
very favourable account to transmit. We are
waiting, I mean I ministers of Word, at the pool
of Abimelech for I spirit of I living had to be
and I may that precious Light not be
far distant.

With much esteem I remain,

your sincere friend,

Sam^l Jones Letter
May 25. 1784

Samuel Jones.

Recd July 7. 1784

T. B.

Pembroke April 11

Very worthy and Reverend friend
I send you a few lines hoping they will
find you and your family well as thro the goodness
of God it is a general time of health with
us but as to religion it greatly decayed
Ever it flourished in this town we have
~~we have~~ hardly so much as the out side of
religion among us young peoples minds seems
to be given up most wholly to frolicking
and vanity and heads of families seem to
like it well Enough and dont try to bring up their
children other wise it to be hoped that ^{there} is some
fruitful among us or we could Not Expect the place would
be Spared ^{it is a dark time} with me but I think some
times with jonah that I will look a gain towards his holly
messenger tho I have ben disobedient I pray god to Revive
work of Religion in this place and in my own heart
that I must conclude my letter and wish you health &
prosperity among your people and ^{hope} you may continue
pastor to your people and your labours blessed
intend. if I can and it is likely to me that I shall
come to tillicut Next week and I should be glad
to hear of you that I was to have of you for I want
a cow very much and I shall try to get one
for I want a cow very much.

I Remain your Sarah Keen
Friend

Janh Deen
Cott. Am. n. 1782.
1782. May 27.
J. B.

Mr Isaac Backus
in Middleborough

Janh Deen

Yours father in Christ with pleasure
improve this opportunity to inform you
that through the goodness of god I am well
in body and happy in my mind
our Beth has been very well the summer
past but is now sum poorly the rest
of my family are well I hope these
few lines will find you comforted in
body and mind. Remember my love to
your family and especially to your
long wife I long to see her and
rejoice with her that she has found the
pearl of great price. we in Toy a very
great union hope the church where
I belong and a good deal in engagement
of mind. there has been a considerable
number added to our church the year past
two the last Sabbath and they seem to
stand fast in the liberty of the gospel.
So I long to see you to tell you of my
happens and my trials. So pray
for us. I hope we shall all meet
at the right hand of the blessed Jesus
and part no more. So I shall conclude
with subscribing my self your affectionate
but unworthy friend
Betsy Beth

Mass September 11 1803

Betty Keith
Sept. 1803.
Rel. Oct. 2. —
S. 78.

To the R.
Isaac Backus
in
Middelbrough

...in which you propose to let of public knows
...have been of proposed in Massachusetts Bay
...is to let you know of in of Year 1768 in a very ^{old} night
...about 9 or 10 O'clock in of Evening I was ^{taken off} carried by
...in of Town where I live, from my family consisting
...three for all children into goal, it being a ^{poor} ^{old} ^{man} ^{who} ^{was} ^{at} ^{the} ^{time} ^{of} ^{his} ^{being} ^{carried} ^{into} ^{goal}
...by Advice while I was detained at a ^{time} ^{of} ^{my} ^{being} ^{carried} ^{into} ^{goal}
...to pay of Sum of about 4/8 L M for which I was
...a Person I being of Ministerial State. The Reason why
...paying it before was because ^{I was at} ^{the} ^{time} ^{of} ^{my} ^{being} ^{carried} ^{into} ^{goal} belonged to the
...society in Haverhill, and had carried in a Certificate
...suppose, according to Law. Thus they dealt with a poor
...Woman in Bradford of Melist of Solomon Kimball
...of of Town, at whose House of Rev. Mr. Smith was
...treated by many of of People in Bradford who
...headed by ^{the} ^{late} ^{Rev.} ^{Mr.} ^{Smith} Sheriff ^{of} ^{the} ^{County} ^{of} ^{Massachusetts} Amos Muliken
...took ^{me} ^{at} ^{the} ^{time} ^{of} ^{my} ^{being} ^{carried} ^{into} ^{goal} when Mr. Smith was to preach
...in our House at of Request of my Husband
...warmly contended with him & threatened him if he
...proceed, however Mr. Smith went to begin service by singing
...standing of Noise & Threats of of People: but one
...of ^{the} ^{people} ^{snatched} of Chair behind which Mr. Smith stood from before
...upon which my Husband desired Mr. Smith to carry a little
...till he might quell of tumult: but all his Endeavours
...upon which my Husband desired Mr. Smith to begin
...public service which accordingly he did & went thro' then
...further Molestation.

Bradford. Sep: of 2. 1774.

Martha Kimbal.

N. B. The Above I have attest to — It may be observed
...Tavern whether they took me is about 2 miles from my House, after
...paid what they demanded, then I had to return to my poor Fatherless
...this of Snow, on Frost, in of Year of of Night, exposed to of severity
...of Cold.

Widow Kimbal.
Sufferings 1774.

Widow Kimbal. Sufferings
1774.

~

70
Dear friend I send you these lines charged
with my love and kind respect to ^{you} and yours
hoping that these lines will find you in good
health. I have not been well for some time
but am much better so as to scrape a couple through
the goodness of god I have reason to believe some
how his unsearchable mercies be stayed on me in keep-
ing and preserving of me while many have been
cut off by the sword and pestilence which wait
eth at noon day and may his mercies lead me
to an unfeigned repentance there is mischief com-
ing by me iniquities on every side all most killing
and captivating of our soldiers they are a rod
which I fear not but I fear the greater god
he has it in his hand that we may go for
his mercies lest we be consumed our hearts fail
us our eyes see what you hear I can't write for
fear but if I could come home I could tell what
I think but tis for sin that we thus suffer
and for all this his anger is not turned away but
his hand is stretched out still for there is never fifty
men of our company that is not sent for duty but go
spaced our views to this all but Jonathan Hester
who was left at fort Edward very bad and I have
heard from him since but they were fast among
the Yorkers and some of our regiment Nathaniel Crossman
of Tinton is dead and if god in mercy dont prevent we
expect a great mortality amongst us very ~~sole~~ sole
troubles for fears of the o god I desire your prayers for
me that god would spare my life and return me
safely to my family if it may be his will but above
all pardon my sin and accept me in and through Christ

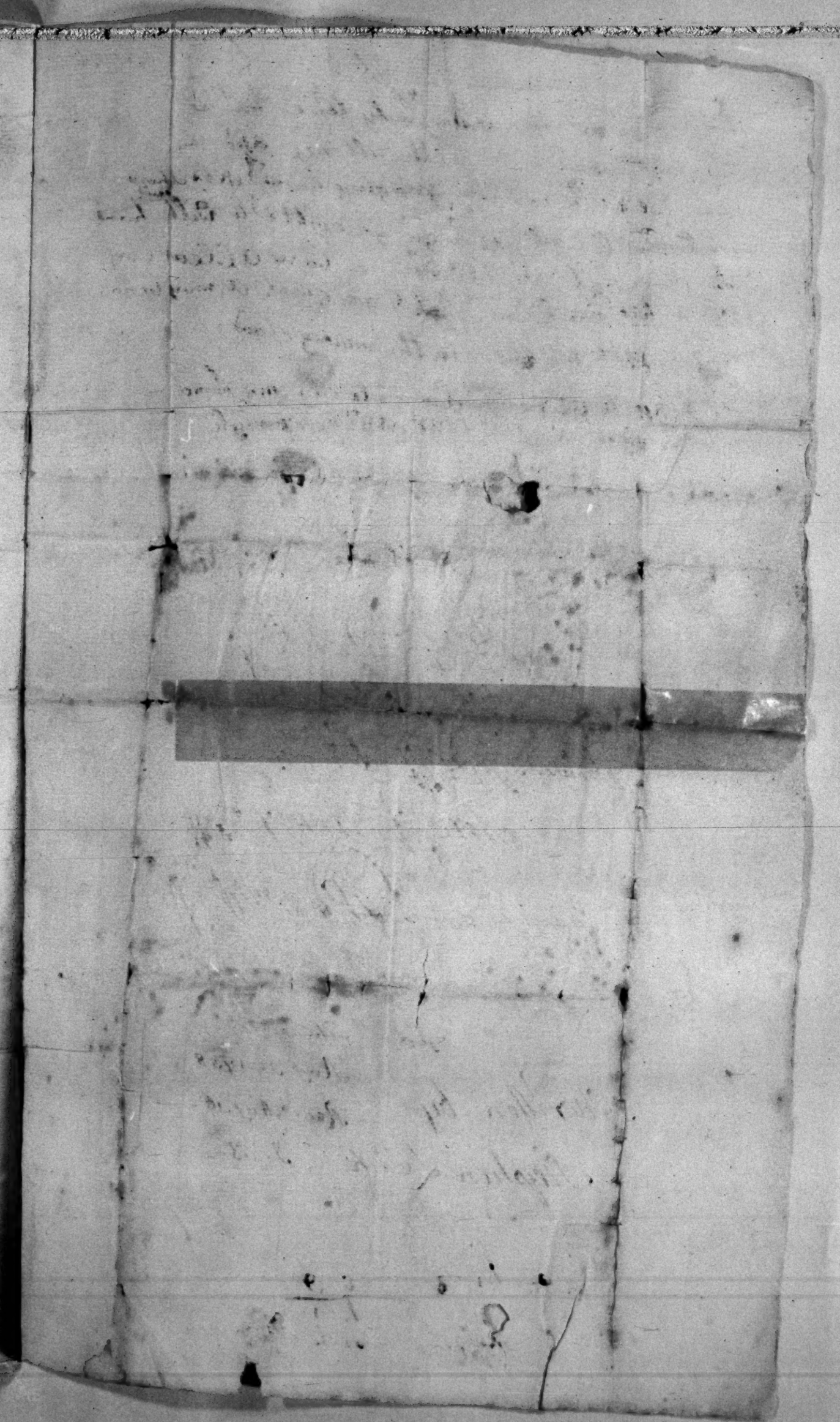
O New England How is thy City faded how is
thy young men Coued down with ill ness and thy
wise abaied and thy ~~glory~~ glory launed in to Shain
but I would let us Cri to god you nighted ly with ^{our} harts
ho Sore but god will return to us a Clear Day
after this Dark sum Night god grant it may be so
So I rest my self in the mercy of god

I Desier to be remembered to all my friend
wishing of you all weal and prospering ly
wee that are poorly are hear and the
rest are gon up the river to the great
Carings place leave to S. Diego to haul a ^{part}
Date at Schenacady August ye 5-1758

Stephen Leach

Yos scrip the Deth of Lord How is Lamented
by all and lot with out Cause

I Would remesbrin my Love to
my Wife and Children



Stephen Leach Letter
Aug. 5. 1758.

The Rev. Mr. James
Mr. Isaac Barnes
Living in Middleborough
in New England
with Care of the

From Schenarddy.
Aug. 5. 1758
Written by
Recd. Aug. 16. —
Stephen Leach J. B.

2 1. 8 - 5 9
4 1 1

I see Mr Hallett and he said he wanted
to send one of his Books to Mr Barker and did
not know how and I told him I could give it a
safe conveyance and on Mr Hallett's desire have
sent it from yours to Love Joseph Knight.

And through God's goodness we are in comfortable health
and hope you and yours are so with all
spiritual blessings.

Joseph Knight
letter May 3. 1774

Recd. May 28.
J. B.

Dear Brother after my Love to you
hoping they will find you well as they
have me and the people of my charge
would let you know that I Received
Letter from you in about 2 months
it was dated in which you gave me
an account of the prosperity of Zion of
the in several parts of the Land which I
joyed to hear you also desired ^{me} to give
you some a particular account of the Rise
and progress of the work of God of late in
the Town where I dwell and also in
neighbouring Towns which Request I think to be
Reasonable and I gladly embrace this
opportunity to ~~answer~~ answer it

Which is as follows 1763.

Decem^r 6th 1764. It pleased the Lord
begin his mighty work in Woodstock
we pleased to take hold of my heart
that Day who was the first person that
knew of that was convicted who was one
of vanity I soon saw my self as undone
condemned By God I was and heart enemy
I and all that was good unable to help
self up no way appeared to escape his Wrath
eyes of Grieving his Wrath were almost gone
God convinced ^{me} of his Sovereignty and Justice
on the Twelfth Day of March following I
fell into his hands and Revealed his
Name on me and mine

I then saw a world Lying in wickedness and the
necesity of men being made new. My clothes fell with weight
upon my mind and felt my self disposed to speak
to them about it which was surprising to all that
heard and the weather because it came from such
a cold summer the unexpected and surprising
news soon flew abroad upon which four of my
compassions came to see me: one becoming
notion if I was then present of us that some of
them soon confest I soon began to talk with
them about death and the need of being
prepared for it and when they heard they stood like
men amazed I spent the even with them and
upon the desire of one of them I prayd with them
and while I prayd 2 of them were prickt at the heart
and cryd first what shall we do and one of
them hardly able to get home and these two were
truly converted soon after sent them
before that there might be another meeting
appointed with another school which I gladly complied
with and when I came to the house I was astonished
for though it was a dark cloudy night in
march people flockd from all parts of the society
until the house was full the people were
chiefly youth that met and no body to carry
on the meeting but my self and the other 2
converted young men but we sung and sung
and Read a sermon book and I exhorted those
two young men manifested their distress of
soul saying that they were a going to hell
I warned others that they did not go to the
same place of torment

That was a night much to be Remembered for I
believe that there was 40 persons that were under
convictions and those persons that were converted became
Loud preachers to others around them both by their
countenances and talk meetings were now attended
2 or 3 times in a week convictions increased greatly
Parents much surprised to see their giddy children
so full of distress about their souls some old
professors yet had thought them selves christians now
began to see that there bounding was upon the sand
and cried god be merciful to us sinners and ^{at} the first
there was hardly any the time to say a word
against the work. foolishness that had bin much
praised now came to a stop the bible and other
good books that never had bin regarded by these
persons now were much in use our groves rang
with the bitter outcries of the distressed youth
god was soon merciful to some of them and delivered
them from their distress and their sorrow was
turned into joy and their mouths filled with
praises to their Redeemer and they were then
calling upon all to praise the Lord with them
for his goodness to them and they recommended
him to others instructing them to be reconciled
to god this increased others distress
and this stirred up all the professors in the
society those that were christians that had bin
sleeping with the foolish virgins began to lament
their backsliding and with joy owned the work
to be of the Lord and encouraged to be workers
together with him and those that were no more
than professors and intended to remain where
they were then were stirred up to oppose the work

and sought and sought to life means to stop
the progress of it but all in vain first they
met with them and sought to Regulate them
to keep them from Exceeding each other
beginning to talk much of Errors Cautioned a gainst
standing to much time in meeting and of
being out too long a nights end of being
to much Depressed &c
that when they saw that they could not
obtain these in this way they withdrew
from our meeting and fell to cursing and
cared sorrow and Delusions neighbouring
ministers ^{were} called in and a fast proclaimed and
and instead of being workers to gether with
the Lord in the glorious work they fell to
Reading about fells spirits Satans transforming
him self into an Angel of Light against fells
ministers Separatists and Separations
Baptists and paptis Teachers intimating that
the work in that place was from Satans end
those that were the instruments of it were his
servants and for no other Reason than this we
conceive them that they were happily instrumented
of turning many from Sin to God Such preaching
was much admired by the Church in general with
gladness the hearts of the tender Lambs they became
for a Reformation but all in vain and they soon
saw the need of a Separation and in the fall
following they Separated and met together
as a Society and improve the Gifts that God had
given them and it was attended with a Divine Blessing

Hearts were comforted and sinners converted the saints
sought the scriptures to know their duty and soon
found that they were not baptised and soon were
baptised by immersion a considerable number of them
and their number increased fast we met as a society
better than in years and then thought y^t there was
enough agreed to embody into a Chh and in Feby
1766 we embodied about 16 members and had the
ordination of the Supper administered and Gods
blessing attended it there was some additions soon
made to the Chh we made several attempts to get
our Elders but was disappointed some gifted brethren
brother among us were very helpful to us brotherly
Love continued and it was apparent to all that had
eyes to see that Gods work that he had begun went
on among us but with lamentation many
we speak it there was many that were
awakened that soon began to turn of and to theme
of Corps of Living again but all those that were
members of the Chh yet remained steadfast and
we was greatly favoured with several gifted Elders
that laboured among us which was greatly
helpful to us in our infancy and in about three
years after the work began it pleased the Lord to
call me forth to publicly preach his word and I trust
that I was so enabled to do it that it was
satisfying to the Chh in some measure I preached
among them constantly for several months and
then the Chh proceeded to give me a call to be
ordained upon which I consented and was
ordained May 29th 1769 and in June following
there was several members added to our Chh

By Baptism and God blessed is together But he who
Knows what is best for our humbling and Instruction
Suffered Satan to sift us as wheat by taking in
upon us in an unexpected way Transforming
him self into an angel of Light and Shaved up
Some of the members of the Chh first in a burning
Deaf for God which led them to accuse the Chh
and to speak great swelling words against it
Crying they were all Dead Calling to them to
Come up into the Jailorery &c. Refusing to go
any further with these Dear Dead brethren if
they would not be more alive and waking
young and ignorant and the Envyng Subtle
we was hard put to it to know what to do but
we endeavored to Deal with those persons as well
as we could while the Chh seemed to be upon
the latter as though the virgibility of it would be all
broken to pieces for there was so many that
were blinded with those persons seeming Love
and Religion that we was hardly able to act
any thing but we Confess that ~~that~~ ^{these} ~~figure~~ ^{was}
was much truth in what they said concerning
our Lukewarmness for which we began to Lament
and Intreated them who said that they were
alive to stay with and help us but in ~~our~~ ^{their} ~~language~~
with them they Layd several other grievous
Charges against us and me in particular which
had no truth in them for which one Brother and
Three Sisters were admonished and one Sister
has bin admonished several for breach of moral Rule

St. John's
Richmond

But these things have bin for the good of the Chh
and there has bin several person added to our Church
and through Divine goodness it is a time of considerable
Peace amongst us at present. Notwithstanding on the general
appears to be well established in these minds but
then we have in some measure lost our first love
(Brethren Pray for us) but God is still good to us
his unworthy children and both often visit us with
the Showers of his grace and his children are comforted

you also desired that I would give you some
account of the work of Gods grace of Late
in Neighbouring town which I shall now do
at Abington in Dorset. In the month of April
in the year 1763 I was invited to preach there by a
professor of Religion who lived in a remote part
of the town who was a member of Dr. Shroves
Green Church a man of poor Character as I have
heard since I gladly embraced the opportunity
it being a place very dark and one that I had
greatly desired to get into and preach the word
there and on the beginning of the month of May
following I attended a meeting there and went
but felt to hear & did not see but little encouragement
but I was desired by the same man to preach there
again which thing I did soon after with as
little encouragement as before but as it happened
there was a person there that formerly belonged to
Middleborough in the time of the great Affirmation
and that was much rejoiced who was at that
time a member of the Chh in Abington

Silas Hilliard

whose mind was touched with the Truth as I soon
 after found for in a few day after he came to the
 place were I was and desired me to attend a meeting
 at his which was near the center of the Society
 which I did the next week which was the beginning
 of July the news soon spread abroad and the Society
 was alarmed soon after I came to the house the
 minister of the Place and and the great men of
 the Society came with many others seeking to bring
 something out of my mouth that they might accuse
 me I went on with the meeting as I was
 able and they said nothing untill I had dismissed
 the people and soon as I had done the minister
 desired the people to stop for he had a few words
 to say unto them and in his discourse he said
 several things against me which he could not
 prove though he was then desired publicly to do
 so we then entered into a public dispute which
 I was loth to do but could not with a clear
 conscience then omit it continued from the ~~four~~
 sun about 2 hours by untill all most dark
 and the assembly staid and heard and those
 that disputed with me spoke matters unfairly and
 argued so corruptly and treated me so unbecomingly
 that the blind began to see it and there was so
 much contention of the ^{Truth} well upon the minds of
 several persons that they desired to hear me again
 and invited me to preach thair in the Society

again and I did ~~and~~ ^{and} began powerful to
work upon the minds of several persons and
they began to be very zealous to hear the word
and I visited them as often as I could and the
numbers of hearers increased greatly and some that
came to work went home crying this engaged
the enemies of Truth some threatened my life
others to mob me others to prosecute me in the
Law others accused me with blasphemy
others would meet me in the Road & Rage
like distracted men others would seek to scare my
horse as I rode in the Road and I was and shout
but what am I doing if you said that I would
give you an account of the work of the Lord and
I now am telling of the work of the Devil

But I now return to what I would be upon
and it was not long before that there was several
converts and their eyes were open to see the
corruptions of the Day in Religious matters
and the work found us little favour by ministers
and people as it did at Woodstock and they
were so roughly treated that they
were soon ~~forced~~ ^{compelled} to separate to keep a
clear conscience and they kept up a meeting
among them selves and to this I have baptised
a considerable number of persons ~~that~~ ^{these} that belong
these 12 of which belong to our City

So that our Chh now Consists of about 40 or 50
members but our Brethren at Abington are to
be a number of spiritual & understanding
Brethren and there is a ~~lot~~ considerable of a
Society of People that meets there constantly
and they are now in Peace and God of Peace
is with them

In Canterbury also there has of Late
been a number of youth converted
I saw them Last July and find they were
much Imprinted in Religion they flew very
high and appeared to have great Sails and
but Little Ballast I understood that they
have joyned to Elder John Palmer's Chh at
Scotland

They told me that it was thought that
there was near 50 that were converted
there in a few months

In affords of Late there has bin some
moving upon the minds of many persons
I have preached there several times this winter
and people are very zealous to hear the ~~the~~
The Enemies much engaged and threaten
me very hyly but have not feared nor
hurt me as yet through mercy

at Mansfield this winter there is
a considerable of moving upon the minds
of many youth and Strangers & hopefullly
converted by means of a young man
that belonged there that was sick and converted
at the Cape last Summer whose name
is Harris. x

I see them not Long ago and there
appeared a great number of serious Inquirers

x Note his name is Abijah Harris
and was converted in Bridgewater
Sept. 3. 1770. J. B.

Last Week I was at old
Mumberscar and preached
there several times and people
were very attentive to hear the
word and several people as I
have heard since were under great
conviction I also Baptised one
person there

I visited my Brethren at
Nurbridge the 2^d Sabbath in
this month and administered
the Sacrament among them
and I with joy found them
in a very comfortable
circumstance God was with
them of a Truth

Thus Brother I have
endeavored to give a brief
~~and~~ account of the most Remarkable
Things that I have ~~known~~ ^{known} among us
of a spiritual nature that has
accrued to my mind while I have
bin writing

Oh Brother shall not see while
we ~~behold~~ hear and see of the
wonderful works of our God Rejoice
and give glory to him shall not a
sight of these things humble us
shall not a view of these things
discourage us and engage us in our
work for god for my part I see not ye
least matter of Discouragement but
much to Encourage all those that love
the Lord in Sincerity and there is
many thing at this day that calls
loudly to ministers in a special manner
to be faithful the Harvest is Great
the Labourers are few God work is
going on his call to ministers is be

be ^{ye} workers together with me
the power of antichrist much Discover
their Selves and all that bend the
bow ought to Sheete att it and
Spare no arrows

I have sence I set out on this
Pilgrimage found many Enemies
that I Did not Expect but among
all the Devils that Ever I have met
with I have found a while one to be
the worst, he has the most Deceit
me by Transforming him self into as
Angel of Light and under a cloake
of Religion has begiled me and
that he might be the more hid
he has Entered the hearts of some of
my fellow men and made use of
them to carry on his Curst Designs
Even to Rend the Chur of Christ and
Stigmatize and Reproch the ministers
of the Gospel and what was worst
of all it was done under a cloake

of Religion and the greatest Zeal for
God I bless my my God that there
is nothing happened to me but what
is common to men for I find these
persons clearly described in y^e 2 pet^r
2 Chap and in Jude's Epistle
and that the Servant of God of old
were in Perils among fells brethren
oh Brother Let us Ever watch and
Bare Down against this Enemy
at Least the ways of ~~the~~ truth be
Evil Spoken off by ~~it~~ its means
but while we are at ~~war~~ with
this Enemy Let us be careful that
we do not git into as fatal a snare
on the other hand Let us be careful
to bind our selves up in our most
holy faith keeping our selves in the
Love of God Looking for the mercy
of our Lord Jesus Christ unto Eternal
Life Amen

Leclays letter
1771.

I Write no More
But Take Leave
To Subscribe my self
your unworthy Brother
in the Gospel of Christ
Gerr Leclay

Woodstock Febr 18th
1771.

Middleboro Recd. Mar. 4.
See my Diary on
Sept. 21. 1765. J. B.

Dear Sir

after so long a time I have an opportunity

to write and send a line to you my family and flock are
generally well the state of Religion among us is much the
same that it was when I see you Last we have bin favoured
with more peace among our selves for a few months past than
we have had for ~~some~~ ^{some} years before

There was one person Baptized and added to our (Ch. Last Lord
day) I have lately heard from the Creek Country that good
work goes on gloriously there

This week I had a man from South. Barnstable by whom
I learn that good work still goes on there

Received an agreeable Letter of Late from Dr Thompson
of which I need not Inform (concluding ^{you} have
heard of the glorious work there

I hear that Marshall bin Severat arrived at Dr. Grooms (Ch. ^{on}
Late I saw a man Last month that belongs to Westford ⁱⁿ
he congregated with ~~the~~ the people call'd the Light Society

gave me good Satisfaction that he was converted the
inter past by him I understand there was several more
at Mr Judgements of Charity were wrought upon the winter
past by him in behalf of the Society I was Requested
to go and Baptize a number there I have not had time to
sit them yet

Dr Brother I have long waited with great Anxiety to hear
from you and your people and to know how the vine flourishes
here but have not heard one word from you nor your family
Left the place

I believe you would Role over and again to me but I consider
on Lasted opportunity

I trust you will not miss the first opportunity to give
me Posthum Information of affairs among you and around you
I conclude with Subscribing myself your
sincerely &c. brother in Gospel Bond
Bert Loring

and finally I must say this is the

Give my kind regards to Bro. Himes & thank you
Mr Leonard and his wife and all my Brethren there
whom I am joined by Love in the Lord

W. Sedgwick letter

very so for me & know

Dear Sir I again take pen in hand to write to you, the
and my dear family are well. The work of the Lord is still
glorious among us I Baptized 4 persons yesterday. persons
our old friend Silas Corbin and his sister that withdrew from
12 years ago both returned to their standing in the next
the Thursday last to the great satisfaction of the Chh.
our present ~~new~~ number of members is 146 Love and a good
understanding increases in the Chh. There is still some
conviction among us though not so general as it hath bin
one woman converted of late about 60 years of age who
hath bin a member of the presbyterian Chh. between 30 and 40
years and hath given a Relation of her Experience to our Chh.
the great pleasure & report will be Baptized before long. ^{persons}
we are sure such a ~~number~~ of good people being one as now. ^{persons}
at Mansfield upon the 1st of Brethren there in April last with
Messrs Haffins and Lamson we found a number of stable Brethren
that were hopefully converted years ago that never made ~~no~~ professi^{on}
of Religion till of late together with a number lately converted
we advised that they Imbodyed in to Chh. we Received a Letter
the first of June Informing that they had concluded to Imbody
and ^{Baptize} ~~request~~ our assistance and fellowships I expect to be
there 12th of this Instant and expect there will be 12 or 16 persons
Baptized. I was at Sturbridge with messengers from Six Chh.
week before last upon the subject of what is Chh. the fifth party
they give us a fair fair view of their ^{own} ~~trouble~~ from the beginning
and made suitable Retraction for their missteps and Imprudencies and
have lately adapted new articles and Covenant upon the whole
there appeared to be that order and good understanding among them
that we could not but unanimously give them ^{our} full fellowships
I was at Sutton in April last the work of the Lord goes on
gloriously there I Baptized 26 persons 20 of which joined the Chh.
while ~~it~~ was there God is preparing his ~~own~~ for the Battle
we know what Zion hath ^{lost} ~~passed~~ between this and Death.
This we know that as her Day is so her Strength ~~shall~~
shall be we ^{have} heard a Rumour that our friend Linchester
hath Imbodyed the no hell Scheme Pray write to me as soon
as may be and let me know what you know respecting the
affair and how the work of the Lord goes on in your parts
I write no more but, subscribe my self your Brother in
Christ
Dorchester June 4th
1781
Tribulation Will Loring

their minister by free contribution
and finally I must say this is the most powerful

To
Jesse Jackson
at
Middlebury
Vt Conn

Dear Sir
Recd yours of 23d may and was glad to hear inter-
est Gods work still goes on among you and gladly
watch a moment in the midst of more than I can do
against you that to Day after so long a time
had both returned to this place the Sabbath after
late uncommon darkness I observed uncommon
attention and solemnity among the people and before
close of the week I coincidently saw that the Lords work
was begun among us several persons appeared to be
under Gods power the next Sabbath was absent of
a Day in this month so crowded an assembly at our
meeting house I think I never saw I saw upon any
occasion whatever 2 men & one woman baptised and
to the Chh Baptism administered in the Intermission
in the presence of a cloud of witnesses uncommon
silence through the whole while they appeared solemn
when going to and coming from the water I
observed many wept bitterly while there was
scarcely a voice heard in the Street all our communion
that evening many Spectators were present and
then we had sung in him and were about to go out there
was a sudden shock which made aints to adore and
tremble there evidently appeared to be an increase
of the work since which my time hath bin much taken
up in visiting Typhoid fevers

Last Lord Day people appeared to be all attention
the Intermission was I trust well improved nigh an 100
People Entertain'd in the ^{nigh our meeting to} highway to have a man tell
~~what~~ what god had Lately Don for his Soul while with
a Broken heart he recommended a Redeemer
2 persons hopefully converted within a few Days among
3 ~~for~~ ^{more} persons propose to Baptize soon I see the
work ~~has~~ ^{is} begun in the old Society oh may god
Carry it on I judge not pen cannot fully describe ^{us}
how glorious it ^{at present time} is
There is some omen of a work in Sturbridge I am
call'd to a Conner of Westford Thursday next in order
to Baptize a number of persons there
I was all a house in old Stamford yesterday
where there was Three Souls who give me great
Satisfaction that they had Lately taken hold of Life
Eternal by whom I understand there is some of
their neighbours under awakening oh my gods work
go on there while I write my heart is enlarged
I would not Represent matters beyond ~~what~~ ^{what} they
appear to be for I am of one plain mens mind who
he esteem'd it poor Devinity to tell a Lye for god
but such a prospect of a general Reformation I never
Saw among such People there is that at the Door
that will ^{bring} Religious Establishments of humane Law
a final over Thorough in our Land

Acct June 29.

the Breath of his mouth and the spirit of his power
will affect it oh come I pray by the power of thy grace
we bid the welcome from heaven to earth through Jesus
that that man hath set up in opposition to thy government
oh for ^{one} soft may run to meet another and tell the
King of Babilon that his city is taken at one end
oh may we put on courage the victory is ours
oh pray for us that the word of the Lord may have free
course and be glorified here and through the world
Pray write to me every opportunity I will
do the same to you

I write no more but subscribe myself your
fellow labourer in the gospel against the power
of the Beasts which God knows my soul abhors
Biel Sedgwick

to our (Chs. Senne I saw

Imp. journal.
at Windham
Ebenezer Hovey
Jon^a Hovey
Phil^s Perle
Wm. Abbot.

June 12. 1780
they were elder Grooms
learned & pious bapt.

Carrier of Bolton
had a ^{young} cow taken away
for a ministerial tax
this Spring. His
nephew was the
collector.

John 12th June

midleborough

Edo & Jane Hovey
To Red June 13.

Edo & Jane Hovey
Edo June 13. 1780.

to be adaind at Allington
David Lillibridge

June 28. 1780
He was from elder
Sprague's church
in Exeter.

Dec. June 29.

write to me

Happy am that again I may inform you
that I and family are all ~~well~~ well,

The Lord is still good: his work is going on
among us. There has bin a goodly number

added to our Chh. Since I saw you last

the first Sabbath in Novr, there was 17 added
to Chh and this morning 6.

Considerable numbers ^{more} expect will be
added the work of conversion still
continues among us and is spreading into
Westford and Eastford. There begins to
be a shaking in Sturbridge and
others. There Baptists of numbers there
of late

The old Society in the part of the town where
we live are so shattered that they are driven
to the disagreeable necessity to support
their ministers by free contribution
and finally I must say this is the most miserable

His play of Thorne proove my eyes how true
it is astonishing to see with what steadiness
and Candour and Solemnity the Subjects of
the work behave there is hardly any thing
said or done by any, that the Enemies of
the work can have any thing to say
justly against the Subjects of the work
oh Brother this is a good Day oh may
our brave Courage victory is ours
the Cause we are in is certainly good.
The powers of this world are in great
confusion in our State the ministers
are remarkably alarmed
They flatter they frown they mock
and it is evident they greatly fear
a final overthrow ~~in~~ they have present
Plans (Good hasten the time!)
I have heretofore thought they loved money
above all things

write to me

but if we judge according to the present
conduct I must think that Infant Baptism
hath the preeminence
Oh thanks to God it Day falls among us!
pardon the Brokenness of my Scribble
I have but a moment to write
I subscribe my self your in Gospel
Bond
Bible Ledyard
Woodstock Decr 3^d 1780

P.S. I write with Impatience
to ~~Receive~~ Receive a Line from
you

To
Jas. Backus
in
Middleborough
with care

Eds. Fitch
Letter Dec. 3. 1788.

Rec'd Dec. 12
9. 13

My family is still well I wrote a Letter dated
June 4th which I miss of sending to you by the
mail I expected and now send it with this
I was at Mansfield This week Baptized 11 persons
and saw them introduced into a Church with that were
baptized before there is an agreeable prospect
of a great gathering there I preached at
Somerset Last Sabbath there was a great gathering
to hear the word and solemn attention
in short there is an effectual door open
around me and there is many adversaries
but Altho' two my God hath helped me
I subscribe myself your in the Dear Lord Jesus
Saturday June 16th 1781 Bil Ledyard

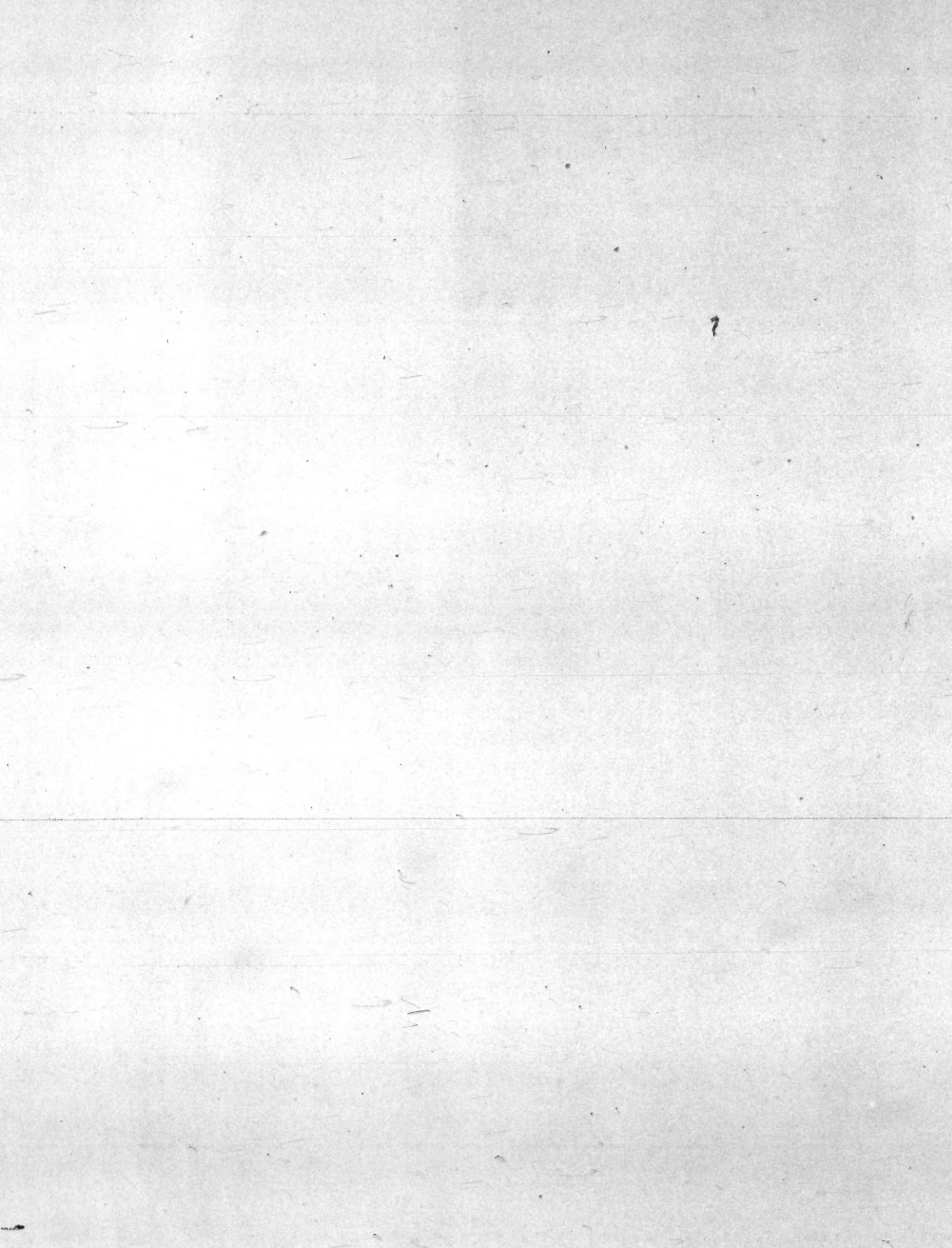
Brother Pray for me
write to me

Woodstock

Elder Ledyard
Letter June 16. 1781

Recd. June 24.
J. W.

Elder Do
Jesse Buckins
at
Middleborough



has come to be

Answered Aug. 2. 1798

Wm. Lloyd
May 25 1798
S. 13.

John St
Harr. Bailin
at
Middleburgh

V/B May to be the first opportunity

Newport May 26th 1798

Dear Sir the time I think long since I saw
your face though not unmindful of you
I had long waited for a convenient opportunity
to write you a Line and a Door opening that I may
send ~~to~~ a Letter to Providence I Gladly embrace
the opportunity to Lett you know if I and family
are all well through Gods mercy Doubtless you have
heard that we have bin favoured with a glorious
revival of the religion among us since I have bin
in these parts a goodly number added to our
Church chiefly youth the greater part remain
steadfast to this Day we have bin favoured with
Peace among our selves and our
will hath bin a low time among us for months
past and hath bin so around us in general
untill the latter part of winter a reformation
began in the west part of unity and spread
properly through to East and still continues
powerful there & ~~spread~~ The methodist Labour
to further the work and early attempted to
form a Society there the Subjects of yr work many
of them appeared att first to be much attached to them
but so much zeal Imprudence and Partyism
marked these steps that itt wounded their tender
hearts and people in general there grow cool toward
them and but few adapt these sentiments
in April Dr. Hebert baptised 22 att one time
and about a fortnight after 21 more Last Sabbath
he baptised seven more he hath bin greatly
instrumental of promoting the good work
the heavenly work hath space and is now pursuing
in Lauder and Acworth morrow Some in the
North part part of Charleston Charmonet is
not yett destitute of person a few Days since

was Baptized there & a man here appears to be
awakened the Enemy thence greatly there is some
moving in one part of our town In short there
is the greatest prospect of a general reformation
in our parts that ever I have seen for seven
years past glory to God may the Heavenly
Influence spread untill Thousands and Tens of ^{thous}ands
are brought into the Kingdom
I hope you continue strong in the faith giving
glory to God and that your Left Days may be your
best Doubtless you feel the Infirmit^yies of age take
hold on you and as you ~~over~~ ^{over} your sorrows
in ~~your~~ ^{your} also this Death not or need not discourage
you Should we after suffering Every thing but
Death from our youth up to promote the Dearest
Cause of our Dear Redeemer untill almost worn
out with age and Labour be treated with
Cruelty by some of the young and Sprightly of our
Day who have but Just Entered the field of Battle
and be Neglected by others who may think in
their Prosperity they never shall be moved
we may not think that ~~some~~ ^{some} Strange thing hath happened
to us that is not common to men
Let ^{us} still Trust in that God that hath bin the God
of our youth and believe he will be the Stay and
Staff of our age and while we have hearts to
believe and Strength to speak let ~~us~~ ^{us}
proclaim the ~~True~~ Gospel of Christ in its Native
Simplicity and while many at this Day are
Confound^{ing} Grace and works together
may we be ever careful to Rilely Divide
the word of Truth

Vol 3 May 1840 the Lord's annual

I must draw to a close but for the want of
mutter to 16^m you may be affraid notwithstanding
you and I did not see alike in the matter of
difficulty at Woodstock when I saw you there
Left yet my affections were ^{not} nor are not in
the Left Count could toward you neither do
believe they ever will for I have you in my
heart to live and Dye with you
my best respects to your Dear wife and
Children and all my old friends there
Mr Leonard and wife in Special

Pray write to me the first opportunity

This from your of unworthy friend

Biel Ledyard

P.S. I hope to see you face once
more before I Dye

I have itt in my mind to visit them
Parts once more if the Lord will

To my Father & Christ

I now have an opportunity to write
to you I gladly embrace it
having obtained help from God & yet continue
your family is well Through God's tender mercies
much sickness and dying around us
being spread among us of a Religious of Nature
are all peace among our selves

precious Doctrine of Sovereign Grace so opposed and
opposed at this Day Dearest to me than ever
spent the last weeks in Grafton there hath bin a great
formation there but the Enemy hath sowed discord
it now a hopeful prospect of union among them
visiting your Son & Daughter had an agreeable opportunity
& Daughter appeared to be much taken hold off
one it will not be long before she may find strength
come forward and visibly own Christ
family are all well May there be a settlement for
my self

must inform you of God's goodness on our Zion
have ~~heard~~ just ~~heard~~ indisputable Information of Elders
and flowers Deaths 2 months since

Dr John Hibler also is suddenly Dead 4 weeks since
was lamented His Death very sudden I am informed
came in to his house on Monday from his mowing
about 11 o'clock Complained of being unwell laid him
down upon his bed some ~~spoke~~ again expired in
few minutes.

Help God for the Gods Seal and the faithful faith
among the Children of men

This from yours in the best of bonds, Niel Sedgwick
August 16th 1801

NBS May be the first opportunity

9.73.

Rec. Sept. 14. -

Aug. 16. 1800

Isle de St. Pierre,

Southold June 28th A.D. 1757

Dear brother my hearty Love and
affections to you and all the dear flock
of Christ oh may you have much of
the precious presents of God in all improvements
in the Gospel and if you may act in a
single view to God's glory oh it is a great
work to preach Christ in the pulpit and
through the whole week oh may we make
thorough work of religion and as it is
our lot to live a great distance from each
other and it is like by we shall never
see each other in this world oh may our
prayers meet at the throne of divine grace
hoping to meet finally at the throne of
glad glory - I am sorry to hear of your
Close Communion yet every one must
be fully persuaded in their mind being
in haste I subscribe my your brother
in our dear head Christ Jesus
my dear pure perfect love to you and
the saints with you Joseph Lee

Let us leave all things with patience
and may we come forth as gold
it is a time of trouble with us we
don't see eye to eye

Joseph Lee
of South Carolina
Long Island
New York
Government

To
Mr. Isaac Backus
at
Middlebury
Stroom Long Island
June 28. 1757

Joseph Lee,
Letter June 28.
1757

Recd. July. 15th -
1757
J. B.

Taunton April 26 Day 1788 my
friend backus sir I take this time
to write this few lines to let you know
that I am well at present though
the goodness of god and I hope these
lines will find you all the same
and I hear that you have met with
a very great loss which I hope
will be compensated for the glory of
god and your best good and I re-
member my love to you all wishen
the good blessing of god upon you all
and I want to see you but I can't
com to see you at present but I have
got six hundred acres of land of
my own and as soon as I can sell
it I intend to help you to what
I owe you for the good Lord has
been pleased to bless me for this
year past very remarkably for some
years rather and I hope that I may
remember to consider from home all
your blessings com and wish your
prayers for me and mine my wife is
sick with the same time disorder I am
more at present so I remain your friend
Richard Lee

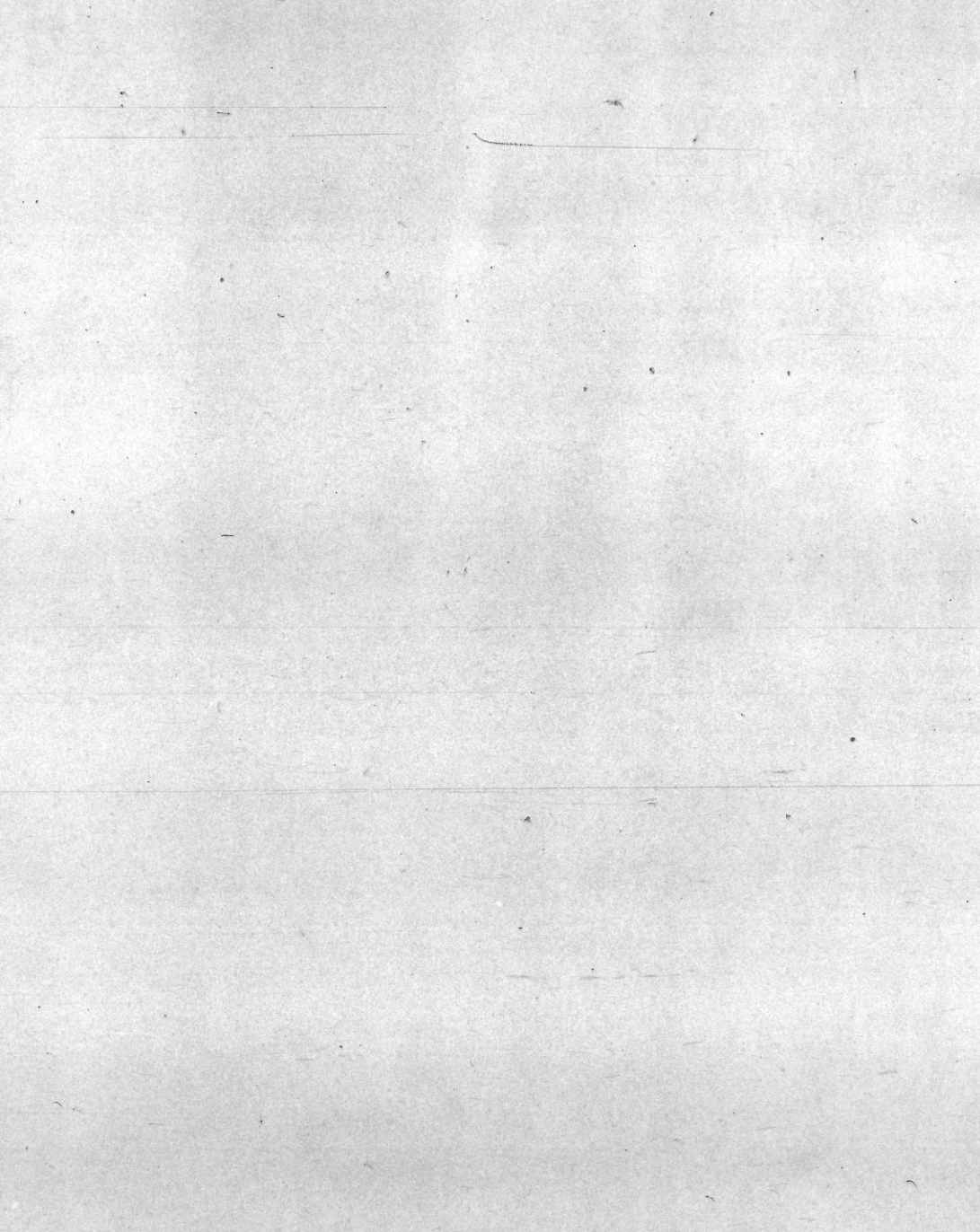
Sum. Kirk. Lee:

Apr. 26. 1488.

Recd. May 29,

17. 8.

Mr To
John Galtugyn
Middleborough
with care and



Norwich January 7 12 1748

Dear Brother Wishing You to Abound in the Gifts and Graces
of the Spirit of God I ^{have} taken this Opportunity to Write to You
to Tell You how something of the Affairs of Christ Kingdom
with Us Since Your Departure the Lord has added Two to his
Misticall Body Namely your Honoured Granmother that Mother
in Israel and the Wife of Ebenezer Grover — The Lord has added
also some sweet and blessed addition in Grace as well as numbered the
last Sabbath there was the Shout of a King in the Camp of Israel
and our Dear Sister Martha ^{and} Mary indeed and a Labourer
also and many others sweetly refreshed and Solemnized by the
Grace of God and his Sinners loved — and now Dear Brother
I speak particularly Concerning myself Through the Goodness Grace
and Mercy of our God I am in Bodily Health at Present But in
Soul leave from Day to Day to my Shame and Delighting Dear Brother we
Remember you in these Bonds — The People in Generall are in
Good Health — Though the last week Happened a Sad and awfull
Tristesse Benjamin Elderskin going fishing fell through the Ice and
was Drowned — Dear Brother Remember the Captain of your
Salvation Goeth Before you Leading on the way Through the Banks
and borders of your Enemies and therefore Feare not the an host
and Encampment Against you and be in nothing terrified by your
Persecutors Tho it may be to them an Evident Token of Perdition
But to you of Salvation and that of God Remember Dear Brother
you are not called to the Honours of this world But to be
Cast out of men and to be brought before kings and Rulers
for Christ sake who is the Captain of your Salvation and
It is not for the servant to be above his master nor the Disciple
above his Lord If they have Persecuted me they will also
Persecute you Say our Dear Lord and Master

No More at Present I Remaine Your
Loving Brother in the Dear Lord Jesus Amen

John Loffingwell Jun

* Col. Lottoups
Wife

Your Mother and Brethren are well
at Present

I receive this letter from
 20th 1747. 8th This together
 Leffingwell is Dear to me
 and he hath been a witness
 of the power in the Church of God
 at Amonk. May he may
 be a greater blessing there
 So your Supple.

To
 Grace
 At
 Allborough

John Leffingwell
 Coln. Jan 12. 1748

Jan. 12. 1747. 8

Winick Oct^r 25 - 1748

Dear Brother these few lines may serve to let you know that
I am all present in good health my wife also and the rest of our
friends in general - and as to my soul affairs through the grace and
mercy of our God I have some sweet tokens of his love and pleasure
he fills my soul with insatiable hungers and thirstings after a
complete conformity to his image which he will assuredly grant in
fulness of time according to his promise Rev 3-10. 52 where he hath
said he will keep us from the hour of temptation that is coming
upon all the world to try them and that he will write upon us his
name Even the new Jerusalem that is as a bride adorned for her
husband Dear Brother the Sabbath before last we sat around the table
of our Lord and a glorious time it was to many of our souls there was
added to the ~~ebb~~ But O the difficulty remains Brother Pottinger
withdraws still and I hear he has been to be Brother Fuller but what
he will with this I know not - Dear Brother Remember us in your
prayers as being of the same body - and now Brother I rejoice to hear
you delivered from bonds and may God keep and hold you from
evil and preserve you and the whole Lion of God to his eternall
glory Amen

Dear Brother neglect not to write
when Providence opens the door that
is fellowship which is with the father
and the Son may be one with another
Brother hide not out left wing for
the Gospel to sound the Gospel trumpet
there and is not returned as yet

Remain your loving Brother in the fellowship of the Gospel

John Leffingwell Jun^r

Dr.
Mr. Isaac Backus
Att
Bridgewater

October 25. 1748

John Leffin?
Letter Oct. 25
1748.

Mr

James Barber

of

Bridgewater

Do

Dear Brother in the Lord Norwich Sept 4th 1751
It is with Pleasure I Think on the
Sweet Hours we have Spent Together in the Glorious and sweet
Fellowship of the Gospel of our Dear Lord Jesus But O with
Shame and Blushing may I Confess my Ignorance and my Unfruitfulness
In this blessed School in that I Fashion my Self so much according to
Lusts in my former Ignorance and Oh how often is it that I am ashamed
of my Masters Cause how often I Rebel against his Sweet Commands and
how often Does he Pardon such a Rebel - well might the Poet Cry thus
Dio. Ever Pity stoop so low - Drest in Divinity and Blood - was Ever Rebel
Court'd so - In Groans of an Expiring God - Infinite Grace almighty Charms
Stand in a Maze of whirling Skies - Jesus the God with Naked Arms
Hangs on a Cross of Love and Dyes - But Oh Dear Brother you are not
Unacquainted with this glorious Mystery of Gods Love though we cannot
Comprehend yet with all the Saints & we may Apprehend that for which we are
Apprehended of Christ (namely to be made like unto him) Dear Brother
Language fails to set forth the height and Depth of this boundless Love
may we for Ever stand adoring and admiring that which we cannot
Comprehend - and now Dear Brother to speak something concerning the State
of the little flock of God in this Place their health been since you were here
Eight or Ten added to the Chh But in respect of the Children they are
much Declined but hold still their meetings a Sabbath Evenings and their
But Oh the Abounding Iniquity amongst the Generality of People
and now to answer your Request concerning Brother Smith the Case is very
sorrowful when we heard the sound of the Trumpet we Reported there to the Battle
Breaker in that he had forsaken the work God had set him to Do namely
of Preaching the Gospel and administering the ordinances thereof he was
Desired to Give his Reasons why he had so Done he gave this answer
That there was a want of Fellowship But to charge it to the Chh or
any Particular Brother he could not and this was all as I Remembered
and then the Chh Declared how they had Taken the Steps Permitted in
the Gospel for his Recovery and all Proved Spectators we all agreed that
it was Duty to Proceed to Publick Sentence and Excommunication of that
Spirit in the which he acted out of the Chh and it was Done by the Power of
holy Ghost and now the Day was the 20th of July - But as to the Effect
God has it in his hands and he orders all things well -

But as to my own Case It has Pleas'd the Lord to Discipline me and
my wife with Sickness which was the Fever and Ague which was very
Distressing Especially to me and brought me very Low but his Stripes were
fewer than my Sins and glory be to his Name he is a God fulfilling
Promises he brought me to Dispose more of my Obstinacy and Incurable
Than Ever I Set Before

These are the Dealings of God with me In Faithfulness and Loving
kindness But Through the Mercies of our God we are Recovered to a
Perfect State of Health and Strength again

Now Dear Brother Surely God is Bringing Zion Through a furnace of
Tryals to Purge away her Dross and tin and to Prepare a People for himself
To Praise his Name However Dear Brother do not Give Back the tryals Come on
Every hand Remember it is a Battle You are to fight where Your Enemies are
Potent tis not Gold and Silver only But Principalitys and Powers and Spiritual
wickednesses in high Places Therefore have on the whole armour of God that
You may stand and be able to stand — Dear Brother it seems to me
a Great Privilege to be favored with to stand so near the Captain as to
be in the front rank of the Battle where You hear the words of Command
from the Captain General and have But to Give them back to the Private
Sentinels Remember You are to take the words at Gods mouth and Declare
them unto the People Oh the Crown of Glory that awaits those that turn
many from sinners into Righteousness they shall Shine as the Stars in the
firmament for ever and ever Dear Brother Remember me I Remain
Your Loving Brother in the Lord

John Leffingwell Junr

I S Remember me to Your wife and all the Brethren in the Lord
My wife Remembers her Love to You and Your wife Desiring Your
Remembrance of her our friends are well in General
Brother Hide has had a bad fall from a tree but is not Dangerously
wounded

John Leffingwell
Letter Sept. 1750

Another Leffingwell's letter
To me from Hudson
I received it Nov. 28. 1750
as I was coming to Albany

Norwich May 26 - 1751

Dear Brother These few Lines may Let you know that I am
in good health as all my family are Through the Blessing
of God Dear Brother the time is short I can't Enter much into
Particulars But just hint all things the State of Religion is very
amongst us and there are many Trials and Difficultys amongst
us Dear Lambs Satan is venting his Sharpest Spite and Malice
against the Church and filling the Lambs with Evil Surmising one
against another But Blessed be God he keeps him in Chains and over
all things for his own glory — Brother Hise has been under
various Trials of Mind of Late But as to his Publick Administration
of Care and Powerfull as Ever I see him tho with but little or no
show to appearance the Sherbs sometimes feed something sweetly
and some sinners under some Convictions but it seems like
Ephraims Goodness like the Morning Dew — Oh Dear Brother
what a time of Temptation is it — it seems sometimes to my
mind as though it must be just Break of Day the Darkness is so
thick and temptations on Every hand Surely the Lord is near
at hand By the Signs he has given us for his sword is bathed in
Blood and is coming Down upon Judea the People of his Curs
to Judgment the Multiplied Instances of awfull and Surprising Sudden
Deaths amongst us is enough seemingly to Surprise Every Creature
But alas scarce any regard it Dear Brother I am glad to hear
from you that God is teaching and Leading you with his Special
Grace tho I have not had Opportunity of perusing your Letters
Dear Brother Neglect not the Gift that is in you which was given you
by Prophecy By the Laying on the hands of the Presbtery But Remember
you watch for souls as they that must give an account to God and not
to man Oh who is sufficient for these things when the Preaching of
Life unto Life and to another the Savor of
Death unto Death But Remember that if you warn the wicked when
you see the sword coming and the wicked flee not his Blow shall
he upon his own head —

Our friends in general are
in good health but some are sickly and weakly and under
Temptations Brother Henolds is Poorly as to Body and under sore
Temptations and Neighbour winthorps wife Likewise Remember their
and Pray for them Remember me to your wife and all Christian
friends my wife remembers her love to you and your wife no more at Present
Remain your loving Brother in the Lord
John Leffingwell Junr

Middleborough
May 26: 1751
This Day I
Reciev. this letter
Isaac Wacker

May 26: 1751

From Mr. Wacker

Bridgewater

Att

Isaac Wacker

L

Att

John Leffing.
Letter May 26.
1751

Orwich Decem^r 29 - 1765

Dear Brother having leave and opportunity I have written a few lines
to let you know of our welfare we are all in good health through the
blessing of God and also tis a remarkable time of health in general although
there is some few sick and some instances of Death since you was here as
you are and I am and some others and this Day Deba Backus Buried his wife
and in the triumphs of faith — and now Dear Brother to give you
a Hint Concerning the State of the Ch^h the Discipline of Gods house
is on Sweetly amongst us things seem to hasten to a Period and the
of Gods visible house are made manifest and God is summoning up
Saints to Bearer their witness against all Sin Even in his own members
Disciplining of them according to the form and Laws of his house
Ch^h Law Duty To send for a Council to Consult and Examine into
the Case Between Brother Lethrop and Birchard and when the Case
is Examined into we found Brother Birchard guilty of harsh
reproaches which was worthy of Admonition and the Ch^h arose and
admonished him in the Power of the Lord and ^{imposed} no less the Admonition
Laid on him but he came forth with a Confession agreeable to the
Rule which was to the Satisfaction of the Ch^h and Brother Lethrop
so he was Received into the Ch^h again and since we have provided
admonish Sister Crocker ^{in breaking Covenant} But She Remains incorrigible — and likewise
Ch^h have agreed to admonish Sister Cathrin Wintworth for Covenant Breaking
there is Evidence to all Satisfaction that She is guilty of fornication which
in time be matter of further admonition unless She is Reprieved by this and
ought to Confession But a Dear Brother although there is such trying things
nature yet Blessed be God there is Strength in God to go through all these
trials and Conflicts Dear Brother faint not at these things for it is through
tribulations we are to Enter into the Kingdom Dear Brother fail not
to exercise the Law of Gods house for it is the Salt of the Ch^h and without it
it is the Ch^h will soon be Leavened and become Loathsome to God and
sink in his holy matrics Therefore Dear Brother necessity is Laid upon us
to stand upon the watch Tower and be like Servants waiting for the coming of their
Lord for sure it is the coming of the Lord Draweth nigh and woe to that Servant
who begins to Beate his fellow Servants and to Eat and Drink with the Drunk
Lord of that Servant will come in an hour that he is not aware of and Cut
off his hand and appoint him his Portion with Hypocrites and Unbelievers where
shall be weeping and gnashing of Teeth — But Oh the Infinite Blessing
is in walking with God of Adhering to and Obeying the Commands of God
though it be in Cutting of a Right Hand or Plucking out a Right Eye and to
leave the Approaches of Christ Greater Riches than the Treasures of Egypt
I must Conclude wishing the Blessing of God to Rest upon you and yours Amen
Remembered me to your wife and all Christian Friends
Your Friends are well I suppose
John Liffingwell Jun^r

You may see I wrote that the Ch^h had agreed to admonish Sister Cathrin and the
next Day of this month we went and admonished her by the Power of the holy Ghost
but no Visible Recovery

John Leffingwell
letter Dec. 9.
1751

Comd. J. Leffingwell

Mr

So

Genl Baucus

Brigadier

Dec. 9. 1751

God either had a Design in Making Men, or else he had not. - If he had no Design, he acted stupidly: if he had a Design, it was either to make them happy or miserable. If his Design was to make them happy or who can justify his goodness. If it was to make them happy, he will be frustrated, without all are saved.

If it was the Will of God that Sin should enter into the World, why did he forbid it? and why does he damn Men for fulfilling his Will? - If it was not the Will of God that Sin should enter into the World, had he not Power enough to keep it out? if his Will is crossed, he must be miserable.

Jesus either died for all Adams Race, or else he did not. If he died for all, why does he leave most of them perish for want of hearing of it? and many of those who do hear it, to die for want of believing of it? If he is self moved to die for them, why not self moved to change their Hearts? If he has suffered for all, why not save all by his Power, which he can do without suffering? If he did not die for all, was he not a Respector of Persons? If he did not die for all, how can ~~then~~ all be called to come to him? If he is the Mediator for all, and does not save all, how does he finish his Work and be faithful in all his House? If he is not the Mediator of all, how can the Non-believer be condemned for not believing in him? Must they be damned for not believing a Lie?

When we have the most of God in us, we most desire that all, without Exception, may be saved: and are our Wills better than the Will of God? at such Times, if it were in our Power, we would save all Men; Is Power wanting in God? These Things are often mentioned, but seldom canvassed fairly.

Rev. Mr. Isaac Backus.

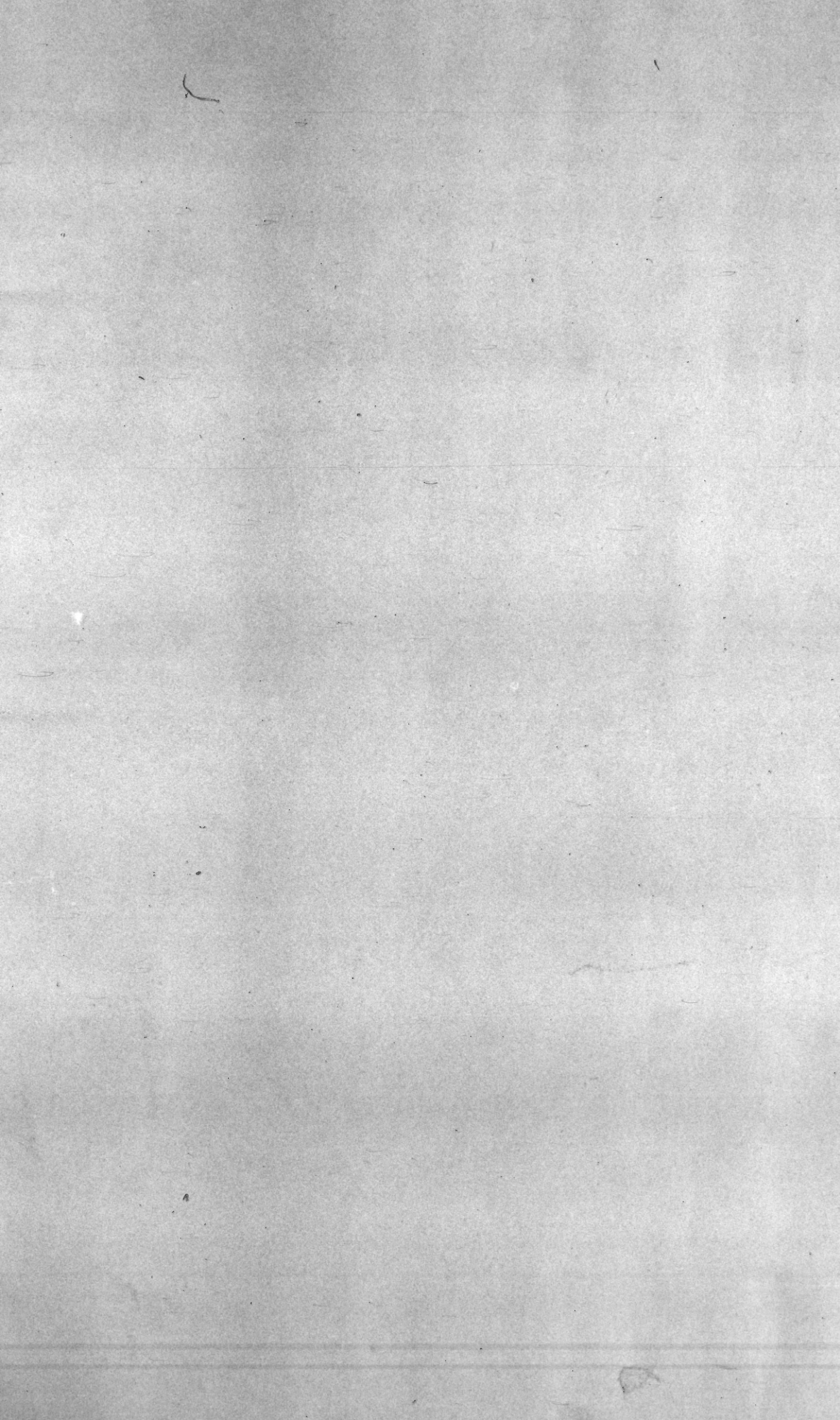
J. Leland.

For either had a design in making this or the
 the not. If he had no design, he could not
 as had a design, it was either to make them happy or
 miserable. If his design was to make them miserable
 who can justify his goodness? If it was to make them
 happy, he will be perfectly content with all my answers.
 If it was the will of God that his children should be
 the whole, why did he make them so? Was he
 then for suffering his will? If he was not the will
 of God that his children should be the whole, he was
 never enough to keep it out of his will is sufficient.
 must be miserable.

I have either this for all answers that is left to be
 not. If he did for all, why then he has made of them
 to suffer for want of knowing of it and many of those
 who he loved to die for them, why not make them
 may well wonder to die for them, why not make them
 change their minds? If he has suffered for all, why not
 have all of his power, which he can do without suffering?
 If he had a power of all, was he not a sufferer of
 suffering? If he did not die for all, how can others all
 be called to come to him? If he is the mediator for
 all, and does not save all, then does he suffer for all
 and be suffered in all his sufferings of he is not the will
 of all, how can he, therefore be mediator for all
 suffering in him? What else is demanded for not being
 saving a life?
 When we have the will of God in us, we must be
 free that all, without exception, may be saved; and
 and will be better than the will of God? At least
 think, if I were in our place, in such a case, what
 is more wanting in God? What things are
 that I have but cannot satisfy.

Second queries April 14 89.

The office of the



~~My dear Father & Brother.~~
~~Come all you way friends~~

At Home, June the 14th, 1797

New and dear Sir,

I have just returned from our Association, and have squeezed out a Minute of Time to write a small Letter. 6 Church joined the Association at this Session. At Hartford, N. Y. an Addition of 103 was made to one Church since the preceding Association. God has his Way in the whirlwind and speaks in Thunder. Last June the War of Elements raged amazingly in this western Hemisphere: among other Trophies of its irresistible Power, a Woman was killed in Hartford, which called out many to see: this alarming Signal seemed to be sanctified for good, for above 40 of the first Converts of that place, refer to that sudden Death for the origin of their lives. In general our Churches are lukewarm, and great

carelessness abounds among our youth; as well as a worldly mind and Infidelity among those riper in years.

Mr Mame has brought me 38 Letters from Virginia: these Letters inform me that Religion is low in those Parts. I was sick, last March, nigh unto Death, but God has raised me up again. Lunford, Walker, Mearns, Williams, Salph, Major, T Courtney, Edwards, Hart, Winchester, Alden, Chace &c are dead, but Barkus still lives to mourn and Leland continues as a poor Cumber of the ground.

Please to accept this short Scrawl, written in a hurry, as a Token of Friendship

J. Leland

Rev Isaac Barker
Middleborough

By Mr. Brome

John A. Bland,
June 14. 1797.
Dec. 28.
9. 13.

Answd, June 26. 1797.

With pleasure I take my pen to inform you that

Rev. and very dear Sir,

June, 10, 1799.

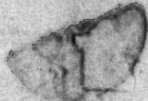
Mr. Brame, is with me, intirely rational; he has preached several Times among us, to good Satisfaction; by him I received a Packet from Virginia, and by him I shall send this Letter to you. I have just returned from our Association and have been copying the Minutes for the Press. You will get the best Idea of the State of our Churches, by an Extract of the Foot of the Lists; which stands thus

B	P	B	P	B
732	: 79	: 46	: 18	: 40 60.

One thing is remarkable: In the 3 Churches of Shaftsbury there has been 259 added, and not one single Death. It naturally brings to mind the Words of the Prophet - "The Inhabitants shall not say, I am sick; the People who dwell therein shall be forgiven their Iniquities". I am going next week to Sandisfield, to assist in the Ordination of one Jesse Hartwell; He embraced Religion in Row, belonged to Shaftfield Church, where he began to preach: in Sandisfield his Labour has been much blessed; 76 joined that Church last year; several Children of old Elder Morse have been converted, and one of them has commenced Preacher. — In the County of Hampshire, several of the Presbyterian Churches have had large Additions. Deacon

Booley of Hartford sent me a Letter dated in May, which says a work of God begun in that Town on Thanksgiving day Night in Nov. last, and has so spread that 40 had joined the Baptist Chh and as many more the Presbyterians. Indeed the Lord reigns and will reign forever. Amen

John Leland



John T. Lane,
June 10. 1798,
Rec. July 3.
N.S.

Rev. Isaac Backus
Middleborough

Edmund Hale N.W. May 1. 95

My Dear Father & Brother,

With pleasure I take my pen to inform you that
affairs in general proceed in good order at present
with respect to Religion this nothing special is existing
at present. I'm busy for a mind, anxious for the Redeem-
er's cause, to reflect upon the series of events that have
taken place the winter past. The aged Brethren af-
firmed me that at no time since their remembrance,
the adversary has exhibited such evidences of their
jealousy of the growing Interest of our Denom. Their ac-
tions are like men in despair struggling to support
Jabriel which, 'tis evident to them, is rapidly falling.
They can not to oppress us with taxation but are using
every devilish art to extort our property. They have at last
at this time villainously obtained a vote to raise by tax \$80
of which is to go to Mr M. I have appt. it upon the
whole town under a pretence of its being a town rate
to defray incidental charges. We have fortunately

Sept. 27 95

discovered the deception & obstinately refused to pay it: but
still they fear to strain upon us. O Happy Zion, no weapons
formed against thee shall prosper. The people are con-
stant for my states residence among them. I have not yet
concluded.

My soul still enjoys the sweet supports &
consolations of the gospel of Jesus. But still I am barren
& stupid, remiss & unfaithful, Dear Sir, pray for me.
Pray that an unworthy ~~an~~ unexperienced Youth may
wear before a defaulting multitude the innocence of the
Dove & the wisdom of the serpent & walk in all things
well pleasing to the Lord.

Dr Sir, Adieu
From y^e unworthy Brother
P. D. Leonars

Sept. 22 96

David Lemaria.
May 1. 1795.
Rec. June 12.
J. B.

Mr. Isaac Backus
Middleboro

Sept. 22 95

My Dear Pastor,

This Afternoon I had designed to visit you
that Br. Isaac Dean at Mr Harris sent to me & desires
that I wd be at Home as he intends to come & see me.
I expect by the leave of Providence to go to Templeton
tomorrow & remain there 2 or ³ Weeks before I return to
the Vineyard. This I deem preferable to going first to the
Vineyard & then to Templeton as it will prevent the fa-
tigue of journeying so much.

Yrs. in the Gospel

Le. Leonard Jun. ar

David Leonard,
Sept. 22. 1795.
Recd. the same day
J.B.

Mr. John Barker
Middleford

Templeton, Feb. 16 1796

Ever respectful Dear Sir,

I am pleased with this unexpected opportunity of conveying a line to you. With reluctance I have deferred writing to this present time, the want of time & opportunity, however, was the only obstacle — With pleasure I can communicate some joyful news respecting Zion's prosperity. We trust the Lord is in some of these western towns by the conviction & converting power of his gospel. In Sherbridge some of the stubborn babes of Bashan, have lately (we hope) been brought to bow. Some of the vilest of sinners are taken — A deist & a universalist have espoused the cause of the Redeemer since I saw you. A little while ago, they ^{were} employed in loading religion with the foulest calumnies, but now their theme is changed — Now they stand to meet the arrows which they themselves have thrown. These things clearly prove this eternal truth that when God begins to work, neither men nor devils can hinder. When the Great Jehovah shakes ^{the} vilest opposer must bow.

With great respect I remain

P. S. I came from Litch. not many days since to this
place - I expect to return back next week - There
is a great call in these parts for bap. preachers
The town of Union ^(this preacher being up) has laid aside the iron
bands of prejudice to that degree, they are now
very solicitous I should settle with them. At the
request of the town I have been with them some
There appears to be a great thirst to hear preach-
ing. Crowded assemblies & the most attentive silence
declare the rectitude of their professed desire. O that
God would raise up Ananias who might
faithfully supply the vacancies in christiandom
I answer all urgent requests.

If the Church would dismiss me, & if you, Sir, would
the recommendation up the first offer, I
should be glad, but if not, I shall, (God willing)

see you in the Spring - Be pleased to remember
one of the weakest of the flock, in your prayers -
Pray that I may never fall by pride, popularity, or
any other destructive for James Z. L. Leonard

Some have joined the bap. chh. of late - some more are
happily here again - In Wilkesham, a place
your revival is commencing. God is carrying into effect
his great, his undisturbed designs. The circumstances
of things truly forbode important events - The pro-
phesies are rapidly nearing their fulfilment - How
then does it behove Zion to be on her watch tow-
er, clothed in the beauties of vital religion, & hun-
gry waiting for the appearance of her Lord in his
visible Kingdom - At this day when ~~the~~
darkness & light meet & clash, when Satan with
violence & hurrying rage, is opposing the conquests
of the blessed Redeemer, how does ^{it} concern the sons
of Zion to pray unceasingly for the outpouring
of the divine spirit - O that professors might
more closely adhere to the despised doctrines of
Jesus, & live lives of incessant prayer -

I woud inform you, Sir, that I will subscribe
for one dozen of your books - It is probable, I can
dispose of them in groups of time in the western
parts - I woud observe that, all circumstances
considered, it appears duty to remove my relatives
to Lib. chh. The reasons ~~I cannot~~ ^{we} give for want of
time. I expect to go down to Bridg. in the spring.

Your unworthy but sincere friend James L. Leonard

With great respect

E. L. Leonard,
Aug. 16. 1796.
Dec. May. 12.

2. 13.

Rev. Isaac Barber

Wilmington

Buckland March the 8 1730.

your favour I Recd March 4 and
with great joy and satisfaction I read it.
was great to hear of your health of Bidey
perhaps you will in quier after my health
I am rather better than I was ~~with~~ when
I wrote Last as to my bodily health
which is but a Lethal waight: In Regard
to the health and ~~prosperity~~ of the soul
My Dear Sister I must tell you that
they looking in to the revealed will of god
you find such a scale ship with the
father ^{spirit have} ~~and~~ with his son Christ Jesus and
by the same fellowship and with another
there is the spirit of love peace and
harmony amongst us at present ~~and~~
and for ever blessed and praised be god for
it and as you desired aintress in
our prayers that the Lord would releave
the captivity of Zion which is my arde
that the Lord would come that way
with the sweet gails of his holy
spirit and blow upon that garden
that the spires thereof might flow
out we do also desire your prayers for
that we may stand fast in the
Liberty which with Christ has made

Made us free and that we might not
A gain be intangled with the yoke
of bondage. I have passed through a sea
of darkness in my one mind for a
con siderable time I was ready to say I
never shall reach them blissfull
shores and that I shall one day fall
by the hand of saul But amidst these
trials and afflictions about the fourth
watch of the night I saw Jesus
walking upon the water and upon the
seas of my troubles saying be not
afraid it is I be not fathles but
beleving I was ready to cry out like
unbeleving thomas my Lord and my god
the doors of my spirit will Josephs
stair house was flung open it seemed
all most like a new conversion to my
soul I was brought in to his banquett
ing house and his baer over me becom
Love and his fruit sweet to my heart
I can say with the spouse he is one all
to gather lovely O that my dear Bro^{thers} and
sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ would
lift up your heads and rejoice for your
redemption does are your salvation

Is kneearer than when you Belevied
A few meer rolling sons att most
will Land us safe on Canons Coft
saton from belesushean he sees
the weekes' Sant upon his knees
other duty of prayer of may say this
privilege of praye that we have got
A god to go to when wee are beset
with our spirit will in uniges that has
an Eye open to heare our Brocken
pitions that we might plect his prom
ises and trust upon his word and stay
our selves upon our god: wee heare
good voice from diferents parts a boy
us wee hear of the Breakeing forth of
on the right hand of the Lord
Leoman that she Lengthens her cords
and strengthens her stakes and that
god has eased this wilderness world to
Blossom like a rose: my earnest prayer to
all mighty god is that the knowledge of the
Love might cover the earth as the waters do
the seas } since there is no other way
for us to disorge I gladly embrace this
opportunity: Praye might to me By my boot
her something that shall see for the up
building of your week brother Jofiah Leomar
my wife sendes her love to yours
Hannah Leomar

Rev^d Sir my acquaintance with you cause me
to acquaint you with the oppression and ill
usage that I have had since I saw you last
Last January the 14: 1790 Timothy Phiney Col
lector for the first Precent in Barnstable
take my hors for ^{2d} Precent tax of 11/6 and
sold it the 21: of ^{the} month for three pound
and he came the ^{Be} next Day to settle with me
telling me there was 15/ Charge and the 11/6 tax
and the Remainder was myne I told him he
take my hors without my Consent and forbid
him notwithstanding if he would pay me the
three pound that the hors sold for I would
settle with him but he would not and so
went off without doing any thing about it
and I have not rec^d ~~anything~~ one farthing
~~See~~ to this Day I have thought of suing
but when I think of the ill usage of the Law
to be treated with Delay Disappointment ~~and~~
uncertainty and Expence for this I think is
the true State of Law now at this Day ~~and~~
altho the words ~~of~~ you^s us after this sort God
is Righteous Dear Sir Pray that we may be
found of him in peace from your humble
Barnstable January 4: 1791 Servant Richard Lewis
To the Rev^d Isaac Bacon

Jan. 14. 1790. Timothy Phinney, a church member, collector of Taxes for Mr. Mellen, minister of the first parish in Barnstable, took away two young cattle from Ichabod and Lemuel Lombard, for said tax ^{£1.11.6} worth about 12 dollars, and sold them for £2.14.0. The man who bought the cattle returned them to the original owners, upon their paying said taxes and costs, which was about £2.2.0.

Mr. Enoch Eldrige has ever since April 1785, that in that time they in taxes not less than

preached to that church and he & Mr. Lombard judge have taken from that society 150 dollars.

Samuel Vunder, of the baptist society, was taken and imprisoned by Silvanus Goreham, collector for 1788, for a tax of about 34/0. After he was confined in prison, he paid it and came out, and he paid his next taxes to Phinney.

David Hallet, of said church, was ~~arrested~~ on Jan. 5. 1791, called upon by Phinney, to ^{of about 4 years} pay two taxes, to Mr. Mellen, and rather than go to jail, he paid them.

The baptist church in Barnstable were generally exempted from ministerial taxes, until they got a minister ordained Dec. 3. 1788. Since which by parish vote, they have taxed all the brethren of the church, having the first parish in Barnstable, out of the poor men.

The Baptist Society in Barnstable is not less than 100 members.

Do

Isaac

Richard Lewis,
Jan. 4. 1791.
Res. Jan. 8.
D.B.

Middleborough

Mr Lewis, Barnstable Aug 29 1778

Honored Sir

Having an opportunity to send you a
few lines, I gladly embrace it and there may
inform you that I have a good degree of satisfaction
in my own mind concerning myself, that I have
experienced a saving change, and am turned from
darkness to light, from the Power of Satan to the
living God, and it seems ~~and~~ to be my Great Desire
to keep the Commandments of Christ, and I think that
Baptism is one of Christ's Commandments, and I have
Desire to follow Christ in that Ordinance & Should
be Glad If Mr Lewis could find freedom
in his own Mind, to come down here and administer
the Ordinance of Baptism to me David says
make haste & Delayed not to keep the Commandments
I should be glad If Mr Lewis would come as soon
as he ~~could~~ could

Yours from your Friend

Temperance Lewis,

210

Reverend

Fractured by
Capt Shattuck.

Sept. 2. 1778.
Ct. Aug. 29. 1778.

He came about
the first of Aug.
from New London
a gay youth
of about 26 years
desiring soon
to return, but
was soon engaged
by some grass
Copia at Middle
Sept. 3.

Therefore I subscribe my self your sincere and
Brother in the path of the Gospel committing
my self to gether with you in to the arms of
that God who loves Numbers 6: 24
of him to keep us both with the whole
great of God here & to receive us to him
Self in glory
Simon Dock

Recd

June 30

Simon

(onhall June 30 1784 in the County of York in the State of Mass^a
Bay. Beloved Sir the Lines comes with my Love as from
A Child to A father Wishing Grace Mercy and Peace to
Multiplied to you & to yours ~~and~~ & to the whole World of god
Through our Lord Jesus Christ. & I have A Bundance of Reason to
Bless god for some of your Writings which Has fell into my
Hands in the ^{year} 1779. And in the year 1777 on the 9th of May I trust
I A true Work of Regeneration on my Soul By the Spirit
of God & in the year 1780 in the Month of April Coll'd to
Bare Publick testimony of the Gospel truths and December 18th
Last Received ordination & Both Before and Since Have Seen
The Wonder full works of god in the Powering out His Spirit
on the Son and Daughters of Adam Both in Convicting and Converting
Many Souls & the Church to which I Now Belong Received the
fellowship of the Sister Churches October the 29th 1782 & the
Church Consists of 32 Members & the Lord is Carrying on His
Work in a Very Power full manner in these Eastern Parts
Many Towns and Parishes seems to Be Lurking and waking &
in town of Bingham in the County of ~~Mass^a~~ ^{Lincoln} Being Called
to go there on May the 24th Last Baptiz'd and I A Church
To 27 and A great number more that is Brought to the
Knowledge of the truth that is Expected will Join Soon
And Brother Job Macomber Labors is a Bountantly Blest
in those Parts as the Brethren and others in those Parts in
Term'd me when I Among them in my Journey and Bro^r
Isaac Case Labours is a Bountantly Blest in those Parts
Eastern Parts & the Church of Bingham Has given Brother Job
Macomber A Call to Settle as Pastour of that Church and As this
is Number. Of of Baptizt that Call them Selves free wills
And they Report Many Storeys as of Brother Macomber
trying to Be ordained and that the ^{in them} Council ~~that~~ Part
Could or would ordain Him and their Senses to Be in the mind of
Brethren as is Reported that His Prefables or Lines ^{was} A
at greable their Love I Should Be glad to Have a few
Lines in Particular of the Reform as He seems to Be Sound
in faith & A greable Life and Blessings to His Labours

Dr Mr Isaac
Backus at
Woodborough

Berwick October 26 1778 To Elder backus at Middleb
Beloved brother in Christ - Grace Mercy and peace be multiplyd
Unto you - and to all that Love the truth as it is in Jesus
I gladly. Embrace this Opportunity in writing to you - and would
Let you know that the Brethern are all well Excepting Mr
Emery and his wife who are supposed to be Dangerously sick
But what shall I say Concerning Religion - O Religion
Religion - to my soul Greif it seems to Languish - Not only
Here - but in many other places - O for Showers of the Divine
Spirit that the wilderness May Blossom as the Rose
There seems to be great Divisions at hand wranglings and
Disputings throughout the Churches - the Adversary of Soul
Is sowing Discord. Amongst Brethern - the things most in Disput
at present are as follows - how the Universal Call or the free
proclamation of the Gospel to Every Creature - Can be Reconciled
With the Doctrin of particuler Election - Some say that Christ
Is the Elect of God - and when the Soul believs - he is Electd or
Chosen in him - Others say that Every one that has or shall
Believe - was Chosen in Christ before the world began
But I must draw to a close - wishing you Joy and Success
In the Glorious Gospel - and also begging an Interest in your
prayers - for me - who has been Called into the Labours
of the Gospel - Since I saw you - at Wrentwood
five of our brethern - belonging to this branch of the Church
are Called to be publick Gifts - brother Flupper brother
Randell brother Joss brother Tefethern - and my self
The Most Unworthy of all - we Received your book and
Letter - by the hand of the carrier - we should be glad
To see you again in these parts if willing
I Remain your Loving brother and fellow Labourer
In the Glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Nathaniel Lord

Bernwick St

J. B.

Rec. Nov. 1.

Nath. Jones
Lett. Oct 26/1778

M

Do

Isaac Bachus

At Middlebury N

I am designed to call on so you are not finding it so much
out of my way could not so I thought proper to let you
know that you and I have heard of the Crumby Pond divided
and people to speak on us cutting y^e best of the timber so
I think it best for you to send me a powder to enable you to
prevent it or divide or sell your right to me, but we
hear from you the first opportunity, I do not say any
thing about your friend concluding you have heard by a
letter I brought from your mother, so wishing you the
blessings of y^e upper & nether springs rest to you
friend and son

Simon Lathrop

Do

Mr Isaac Backus
of Middlebury

May 7. 1755

Col. Johnson,
letter May 4.
1755
About land.

This I recd
May. 18.
L. B.

Wm. Loring
to Mr. Backus
May 26/1758

Mr. Backus, Sir

August 28 1778

I hope they will find you and yours well as thro the goodness of god they love us all at Present and Blessed be god for it I have great reason to Bless the Lord for what I trust he has don for my soul since I see you Sir I was under great concern of mine the last time I saw you and I desired to Bless and praise the Lord that he brought me to see what State and Condition I was in by sin and also by Praits and I trust thro the grace of god he has brought me out of naturs Darkness into his marvellous light not by works which I have done but I should lost but by the grace of god I am saved. O how lovely Jesus Christ appears to me some times he appears like a Chief among ten thousand and the way are all to gether lovely the ways of the Lord are ways of pleasantness and all her ~~ways~~ ^{ways} are paths of peace I can say Christ yoke is easy and his yoke is light O how much better is it to serve Jesus Christ then it is to serve Satan O why didnt I begin to serve Jesus Christ the Dear Redeemer fore O I did not know how much Comfort there wose to be taken in ways of Religion O what a good master Jesus Christ is to serve O that I served him better than then I do, O I desire to spend what little time I have here in this sinful world in the service of the Dear Redeemer but I am so lament that I am so sloped and Yal and come so short in my duty to Jesus Christ but I think my desire is as far as I know my wone heart to live more to the honour and glory of god then I do I feel in great Darkness a doubt whether I am yet ready to give all up but then again I think Can I give up it seems as if then I am ready I would not part with for all this world but for ten thousand and would the Devil feels me some times that I have been living my way with a guile heart O how very Satan is throwing his fiery live darts I hope that I shall have strength given me to withstand him O that I might a good fight and lay hold of an eternal joyful life my desire is to hold on and ble to the end for it is those that shall be saved I desire that you would pray for me I might live more to the honour and glory ~~than~~ ^{of} of god then I do redeeming my time be cause the days are evil I desire not to give any a honour to Jew nor Greek nor to the Church of Jesus Christ I desire that the will of god may be continually in my mouth praise him for what great things I trust he has done for my soul whear of I have the greatest reason glad the Lord seems to steel care on his work in this place its Consisten in waiting I trust that their has been many brought out of Darkness to gods marvellous light it is the Lords Doings and it is marvellous in our eyes having no more to Pitt at Present I must conclude your unwor Drind

Anna Lovell

Anna Lovell

we should be all very glad to see Mr Backus
I don't hear of and I hope it won't be long before you will
come and make us a visit if the Lord pleases Give my kind
respects to all your family I should be very glad if
you would take the pains to ^{send} me a letter for tho' I am not worthy
a letter from you

Dear Isaac Backus
Minister of the Gospel
Middleburgh

Anna Lovells letter

Aug. 28. 1778

Recd. Sept. 3.

J. B.

This Anna Lovell
is about 15
years old.

Dear friend and Brother in Christ after my Regards to you
and yours Letting you know that I Enjoy a measure of health
thru the Goodness of God and have found much Refreshment
in Spirit by the Late visit of our Dear Brother Luis and not
only I but all our Bretheren and Sisters with many other
Persons to be much Enclined to hear him and I verily think
that if he should Improve here among us his Gifts would
be well Excepted for there has ben many to hear him and
speak well of his Gifts and Improvements who scarsly
used to come to these meetings Before I did not think
enlarging so much on his Recommendation Left you I should
think I am taken up with New things but Brother Ewer
and Brother Holmes with Several others Desired I would
mention a word to you of their Desire they had of his Improvement
and we have many of us speak our minds to him in regard
to his further Improving among us as God in his providence
shall Give Leave I should be glad to hear from you and to
know something of your mind and advice in regard to what
I have mentioned Concerning our Brother Luis: I Desire to bless
God for his Goodness to wards us in many Respects and in
particular for the hopeful prospect of our Deficiencies being Remo
ved that hath for long time Lain among us So I Beg your prayers
with the prayers of all the Saints that God may Build us up
and Establish us in the faith of his Elect

Barnstable
march 29th 1771

Your Loving Brother in Christ

Samuel Lovell

Barry's

Letter from

Barry's
Letter Mar. 29. 1771

Barry's
Mar. 29. 1771. Feb. 1. 1771.

McDillborough

at
Isaac Backus

The Rev

Dear

beloved Elder

Barnstable July 4. 1776

It is the Desire of us the Baptist Church in Barnstable that if
you can find freedom ^{to} see us and pay us a Christian Visit
and to improve your gifts amongst us and Pray that God may
bless your Improvement with us so that you may be an Instrument in
God's hand to strengthening us in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ: for
it seems to us that now is the time for our faith to be ~~tried~~ tried
as by fire for it seems as if God is very angry with the Children
of men and are visiting our Transgressions with a Rod of Correction
O that God would enable us his Professed People to truly Rep. Returne
again to him from whom we have backsliden from: by a true and
godly Repentance for our Sins that God in the midst of these
Judgments may show mercy to us his people and fill our souls full of
that Love which is sweeter then Life and Stronger then Death
that we might be enabled by that Grace of Love: in this Evil
Time to not fear them who ~~is~~ only able to Kill the Body and
that is all they can do: but that we might fear and Honour
him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords who Rules and over Rules
all things by his mighty Power: & who will bring all things to the
Light and will Judge every man according to his work whether ^{they} ~~are~~
are good or Evil O that the might now Church is Churches and
bring us all to the truth againe as it is in Jesus that we might
have that Lamblike temper as our Blessed Saviour had which was to
do good for Evil which we hope God will bless us with ~~with~~ that spirit
for his Dear Son sake &c. Elder as you are well knowing that we have
now minister to our smaller Church if you can find freedom in Time
your to come and see us we shall be glad if you would send word
down by Sister Lovell when you think you shall & we shall be very
glad if you would give our Love to Elder Hinds & to Elder Hunt
when you see them and invite them in behalfe of us to come
down and visit us and to improve their gifts with us: this is from
your Beloved Brethren in the Lord we two Subscribes in the
Behalfe of the Baptist Church in Barnstable

Lazarus Lovell
Shubael Lovell

Rec'd in the form
of a letter
from Lowell

Mr. DeLong

att

Esq. Jackson

Of

Larned & Shubert Letter from 1876.
Lowell's letter
July 4. 1876. Barnstable July 4.

Rec'd July 7.

J. B.

23. notable mark 29 1775

Honour for and Beloved Brother these are to inform you
 that I Desire to Give Thanks at the Remembrance of Gods
 Goodness for Every favour Both of a spiritual & temporal
 Nature for the way of salvation by Christ Jesus which
 hath not only Reached my Ears but I hope hath Reached
 my heart & it is a Great favour that Christs ministers are
 Exposed to preach the Gospel freely as they Received and
 as Christ Commanded our minds have been Refreshed by
 your Letter his Gifts are well Received Dear as well
 as dear where there is a great Desire of mind towards his
 Improvements not only those of this way but the minds of
 others seems to be under Consideration and it
 is desired that he may Improve among us as a teacher
 & be the will of God he seems to be spiritually Reposed
 & make forth the words of truth and sobriety & if it please
 to Give us one of his ministers may we Receive
 as a Gift from God & so I Conclude with my Love
 to you & your family and I Remember Hanna in Particular
 Martha Look

to you thus I can hardly think of it without reluctance
seems we can not be mutual helpers as we might be
if we lived nigh together I think we all both fathers &
children have need of that spirit which that Captain of
the Lord's host discovered to Joshua of old: and so I
include with my ^{love} to your wife & children: & my
tender remembrance his Love to you Martha Lovell

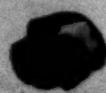
Martha Louel
Letter, Mar. 29. 1771

8. 1771

Recd. Apr. 15

Mar. 29. 1771

From Barnstable



The Reverend

Francis Backus

At

Middleborough

2 in 6

July 4. 1770.

Honoured Mr. I would inform you that I have been
very weakly but am able to write about House I
have experienced much of God's Goodness in my weakness
for which I desire to give thanks my mind is most
nearly exercised on spiritual things at times when I
have been least a bel to take care of temporal things
I have raised desires for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom
I mourn because of trouble it seems there is a wide
reach between this Little Remnant & the Brethren at
wich on a count of Sister Susanna Lovell she did so a
without a Dismission & they received her I believe it
will not appear in the Lite of truth that they denied her
desired advice & Elder Chase desired them to take
advice of Elder Hunt as he was expected though Sister did
propose to take Elder Hunt's advice yet since she concluded
to desist the matter till Elder Hunt came for her to write
she did without acquainting them & then upon the advice you
there sent to go a way both not a pear to me to be
writ I believe if I should do thus I should break
covenant it hath lain with weight on my mind to desire
a Dismission for some time I did not know but I should
when Mr. Clark come if I had opportunity though I was
satisfied with what they did at the Church meeting when
we was hear yet at the next meeting they
confessed their faults to one another & communed together
at the Lord's table & Sister with them: it seems it will not
do for me to ask a Dismission since things have been repre-
sented to you thus I can hardly think of it without Reluctancy
it seems we can not be mutual helpers as we might be
if we lived nigh together I think we all both fathers &
children have need of that Spirit which that Captain of
the Lord's host recovered to Joshua of old: and so I
close with my ^{Love} to your wife & children: & my
tender Remembrance his Love to you Martha Lovell

To
Mr Isaac Packus
in
Middleborough

Martha Lovell,
Lett. May 5. 1777.

Honoured Sir

This may inform you that I am in a better state of health than when you was
 here I would mention the loving kindness of the Lord towards us my children
 have all had a cough all winter but are better some have been sick with the
 Plurisy and has been poorly ever since but have reason to believe that as
 afflictions have abounded so consolation have abounded and I desire to bless the
 Lord that he hath touched the hearts of so many of our young people and I
 hope has brought some of them to trust in Jesus Christ for salvation
 Our hunt has been down and he preaches from that passage in Psalm
 we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house even of thy holy temple
 Four persons were baptised three of them was young, Brother Jeffers has
 been with us all winter and our people has desired him to stay this summer
 the people at Lammish have desired since that he would preach with them
 part of the time, Let us pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth more
 labourers into his harvest and multiply the seed sown and increase the fruits
 of righteousness to the glory of God so I am wishing grace mercy and
 peace may be multiplied thro' the knowledge of God and Christ Jesus

Barnstable April 14 1778

Martha Lovell

Dear Bearer Sir These with much love I enclose

Martha Lovel.
Ct Her Apr 18. 1778

Middleborough

Ministers of the Gospel

Elder Isaac Stuckus

Recd Apr 26.

To

Barnstable September 6 1782

Honored Sir

Remembering my great obligation to you for your
many kindneses I ~~now trouble~~ take leave to acquaint
you that I have been unwell of late but am now better
and that this is much trouble upon my spirits on account of
the Low state of Religion I would just mention one thing that
troubles me among others that is Brother Shubael Lovells
Daughter Anna going off after such a manner with a married man
it has lay heavy upon my spirits and have laboured in the affair
I dont know to any good purpose for further information ask
Mr Lewis I should desire your that upon this matter in a letter
I should be very glad of one visit more from yourself I Dont
now as we ever needed good advice more than now

I conclude Desiring the blessing of the Lord may be upon all
his chosen and may all things work for my good

my Regard to your wife and family

Your hearty friend

Martha Lovell

Sir

Barnstable July: 7: 1780th

Elder Backus

Sir

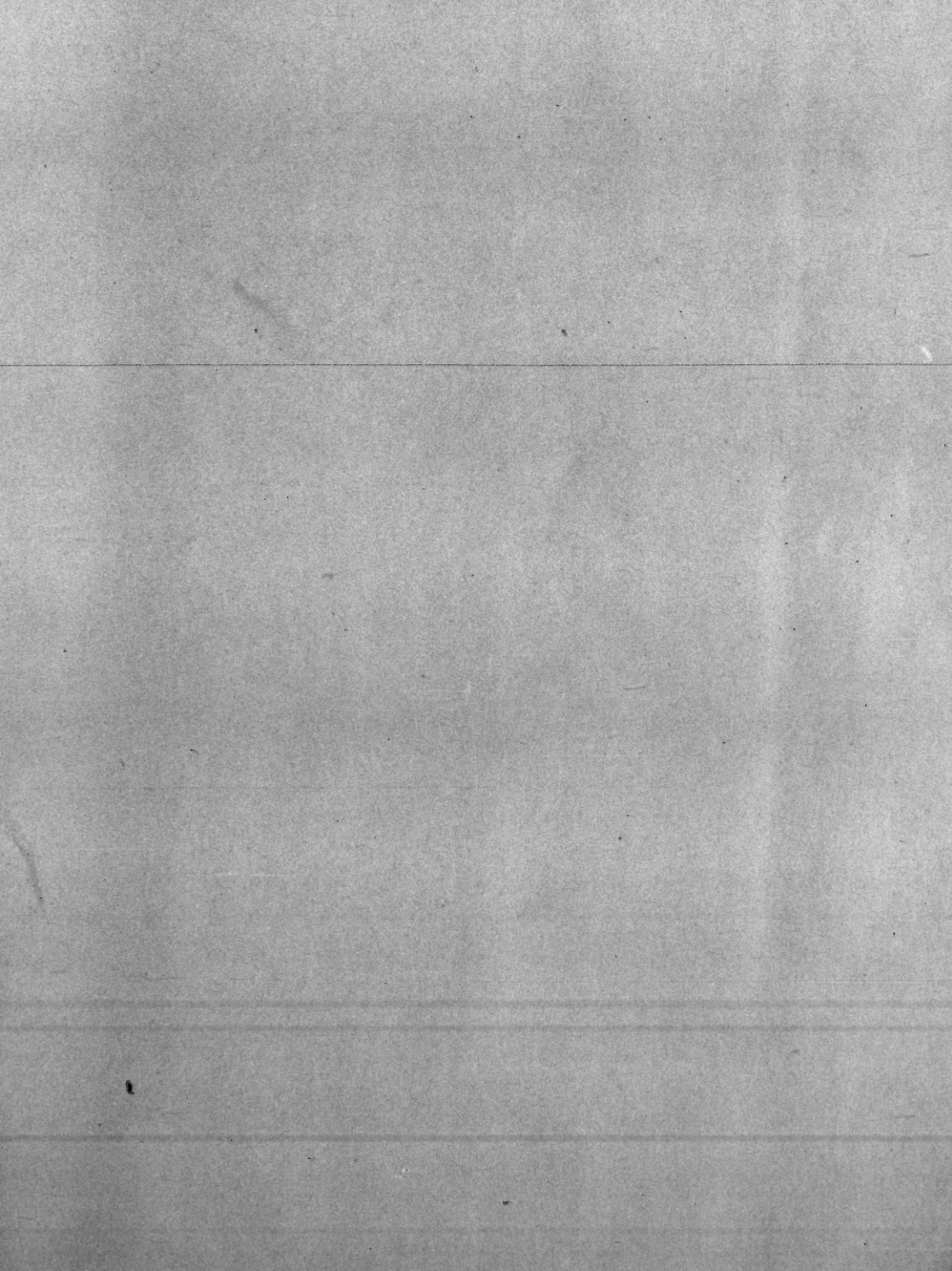
I this Day heard of my two ~~Daughters~~ Daughters
being sick with the small Pox which was very
unexpected news for us and as I am very much
unwell and I have bin this 7 week, very much
unwell and I was not able to come up myself
so I have ~~not~~ got Capt James Blossom to come up
and to tend and ~~and~~ take care of my Daughters
as he has bin use to Doctoring People with
the small Pox and Mr Backus as you and your
family ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~understand~~ ^{understand} have had the small
Pox I shuld be very glad if you would let one
of your Daughters to go and help tend upon my
Children and I hope you will see and take
a fatherly care of them for me and see what
said Capt. Blossom may want for them and
see and buy such things for Blossom as he may
want and as charge as you can and make good
in my behalf. for things that Capt Blossom shall
want for them: and also I want you shuld take
the horse of mine that said Capt. Blossom Rice
up and keep him well for me while he stays and
dont let him be Rice any and I will see you
paid for your trouble and expence and will be
greatly oblige to you before Remember my Lovell
to you wife Shubael Lovell

Shubael Lovell's
letter. July 7. 1780.

Rec^d. July 15.

J. B.

as for your care
of Endigo is left
at the Saint River and
I shall get my wife
from de Long Lovell



My dear Sir
I would inform you by this letter that there is a glorious
revival of religion among us which broke out about eight
weeks since on the first sabbath in June their appeared ⁱⁿ ~~in~~
Colony - the quiet Lord day the groans of the wounded were
heard in different parts of assembly - Conferences were appo-
inted and upwards of 200 attended and many were in great
distress for their souls, but none as yet brought into gospel
liberty - on the next Lord day the work increased and before
the close of the day some were brought to sing the new song
about twenty were brought into gospel liberty and the work
still going on gloriously - many are so exercised in their minds
that sleep has almost departed from them for three weeks together
and but very few families among us where the Lord is ^{not} ~~is~~ ^{flourishing} ~~flourishing~~
out his spirit - ~~my~~ My body is almost worn out in
labouring night and day but I trust my soul rejoices it is
in glorious cause to wear out in - I can hardly get time to
write these few hints to you Oh that this work may spread
through the whole Earth - I will write to
you soon as I can and give you a more accurate account
- Please to send me a letter as soon as you can and
let me know the state of religion among you
at present - from your Brother in
the Gospel
Robert Low

Norwich Vermont July 9 1797

P.S. Please to forgive my blunders in this hurry
of business

the way of salvation by Christ is the most glorious as clear as any I ever saw

114
Having an opp^{ty} to write to I ~~gladly~~ ~~immediately~~ ~~expressing~~ the
following will comfort your heart which is as follows

Answered Sept. 1. 1797.

~~Answered~~ May 8. 1798.

Robert Law,
July 11. 1797.
Recd. Aug. 17.
J. B.

by Mr. Burns

Woodborough
Elder Isaac Backus

2

15
Norwich Sept. 17. 1797

Dear Father & Brother

Recd yours of the 1 of Sept. instant with great satisfaction to my
soul as cold water is to a thirsty soul, so is the good news contained in your
letter. To inform me that you recd. an epistle from me which gave you
joy. Blessed be God that we can inform one another of the prosperity
of Zion by letter. You request me in yours to ^{give} you some further account
of the work of God among us which I promised in mine to you —
Cheerfully comply with my promise and your request
I will give you a short account of the state of Zion among us prior to the
revival. The gold had been coming down and the most fine gold changed
and the daughter of Zion had covered her self with a cloud — The highest of
officers had given cold — ^{the} meetings poorly attended — Conferences but
little regarded — Elders coming in an ev'ing old — Blasphemies abounded &c
it pleased God to wake up his dearest Bride and we were favoured
with the spirit of prayer in the winter past. But saw no encourag-
ing appearance among the youth until about the first of June at which
time the Lord opened the eyes of our schoolmaster and soon after some
of the most lofty and proud among us People attended preaching and Co-
ferences with great attention — The groans of the wounded
were heard — By this time we began to sing the new song — The sp-
irit of the Lord came down as a mighty wind and the number of
awakened souls were increased — More than two hundred people
attended our weekly conferences although it was in hay and harvest
time — I have been called to visit my neighbours houses after I was in
hell — Upon entering their houses I heard such language as this — I am going
to hell — O I am afraid there is no mercy for me — I have lived in
sin so long that I now fear it is to late O God have mercy on me a sinner
and some of them speaking to their ^{own} Parents thus O my Father and
Mother how could ^{you} let ^{me} go on in sin and not warn me of the danger I was
in, you have not so much as told me I must appear before God for judg-
ment — do consider these things before it is to late — Consider how awful it will
be if we ^{must} go in a state of impenitency — O dont go to hell with me — Altho-
ugh you have not told me of ^{my} danger I cannot help warning you of yours
— Others which had godly Parents confessed to them thus O how many times
you have warned me of my danger and many good lessons I have had from
you but I disregarded them all when I knew it grieved you — O can
you forgive me — what shall I do to be saved &c Thus the Lord carried on
his work in a wonderful manner — When they were asked what made them
afraid of hell they would answer They were great sinners and were under
sentence of death by the law of God — But through the goodness of God they
were brought to see they were under sentence but that they were justly sen-
tenced — when they were brought to see this and the glory of God law their
souls were assured thus — O how just God is — O how holy is the Lord let him
do with me as is most for his glory — &c Many of them have been led into
the way of salvation by Christ &c The ^{glorious} as clear as any I ever saw
and I think it is the most ge-
neral I ever was acquainted

Hanover March 4 14 - 1799.

Dear Brother,

I rec^d yours May 31, and was glad to hear from you and the prosperity of Zion in your parts—

The state of religion is very low in this place and Norwich and in many other places in this part of the country but through Divine goodness it is not so in all our towns.

There has been a good work going on in the ~~town~~ of Thetford for two years past and is still increasing I was there in February last at one of their conferences about 150 people attended and many of them gave good evidence of a saving change in a word it is the most pure and free from errors of any revival I ever saw. There has been a powerful work the winter past in Plainfield & Cornish and several towns in Vermont. Thus God is carrying on his work in spite of all oppⁿ of men and Devils, and blessed be his name—

I am informed that God is pouring out his spirit in the city of Hartford (Con, +)

I would inform you that those converts which were brought out of horrible sin in the late revival in this town & Norwich stand fast through the goodness of God—

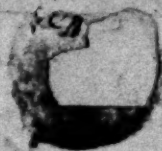
Want of oppⁿ ^{ty} obliges me to come to a close — I ask an interest in your prayers and subscribe my self your brother and fellow labourer in the Gospel Robert Low

P. B. Write me a letter as soon as you have opportunity

Ellen Jones Boston

Middleborough

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Robert Low

Mar. 14. 1799.

Recd. Mar. 25.  
8. 13.

And again Feb. 7.  
1800.

Ans. Jan. 17. 1799.









Beloved  
New Gloucester Sept<sup>r</sup> 4. 1801  
Rev. & Dear Sir

I rec<sup>d</sup> your epistle by Mr Tripp, and trust I do in some measure to mourn with you in your loss, and rejoice with you in the work of God in your parts, which you gave me an account of in your letter. O how refreshing it is to hear of the prosperity of Zion, that God is building her up notwithstanding the many evils which are spreading among us. The state of religion is low in <sup>this</sup> place at present. I am ashamed of my self that I have so ~~little~~ little of the life and power of religion that I bring forth no more of ~~the~~ fruit unto God. Verily I have reasons to mourn over a cold heart.

The doctrine of Grace are preached in many places in this eastern country and the blessing of heaven has attended it to the good of many souls, We had some tokens of God's presence with us at our Association this season at New-Yarmouth. God is building ~~the~~ <sup>us</sup> in the parts in many towns one was constituted in Portland on y<sup>e</sup> 27 of July and re<sup>d</sup> into the fellowship of Association the week before last. O that we be found giving the glory to God. Sir if God will I shall visit your parts next year. I beg an interest in your prayers that I may be more humble and more engaged in the cause of Christ From Your brother in the kingdom and pelience of the pain;

Robert Low

~~Robert Low~~

Pray Remember my

Rev. Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Forwarded by Ebenezer

Robert Dow,  
Sept. 4. 1801.  
Recd. Sept. 15.  
1801.

Answered Sept. 21. 1801



Beloved Brother,

Although it is a long time since I wrote  
you, my desire to hear from you and the prosper-  
ity of Zion in your part, is not abated in  
the least degree but I trust by the grace of God  
increased. At times I am almost ready to  
say, O that I had the wings of a dove I would fly  
into the western part, and visit the Churches of  
my dear Lord.

Last evening I returned from our Association  
with intelligence <sup>from the Elders</sup> <sup>which</sup> was agreeable  
and refreshing to my soul. O what things hath  
God wrought in this part of land!

The visit we had at this Association by dear Bro.  
Bradley was truly refreshing to the dear  
Church in this part of the land.

I have said to write me as soon as possi-  
ble, as Paul his son Timothy.

Send you this by Brother Bradley who can  
tell our affairs to you. Pray for me for I am poor  
and needy.

Indulge me sir, to subscribe your unworthy  
Brother in the Gospel. *Wm. L. L.*

New Gloucester Oct 1 - 1803

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Robert Lox,  
Oct. 1. 1803.  
Spec. Oct 14 -  
1803

Received,  
Jan 21. 1804



1. August 13<sup>th</sup> 1781.

Reverend Sir

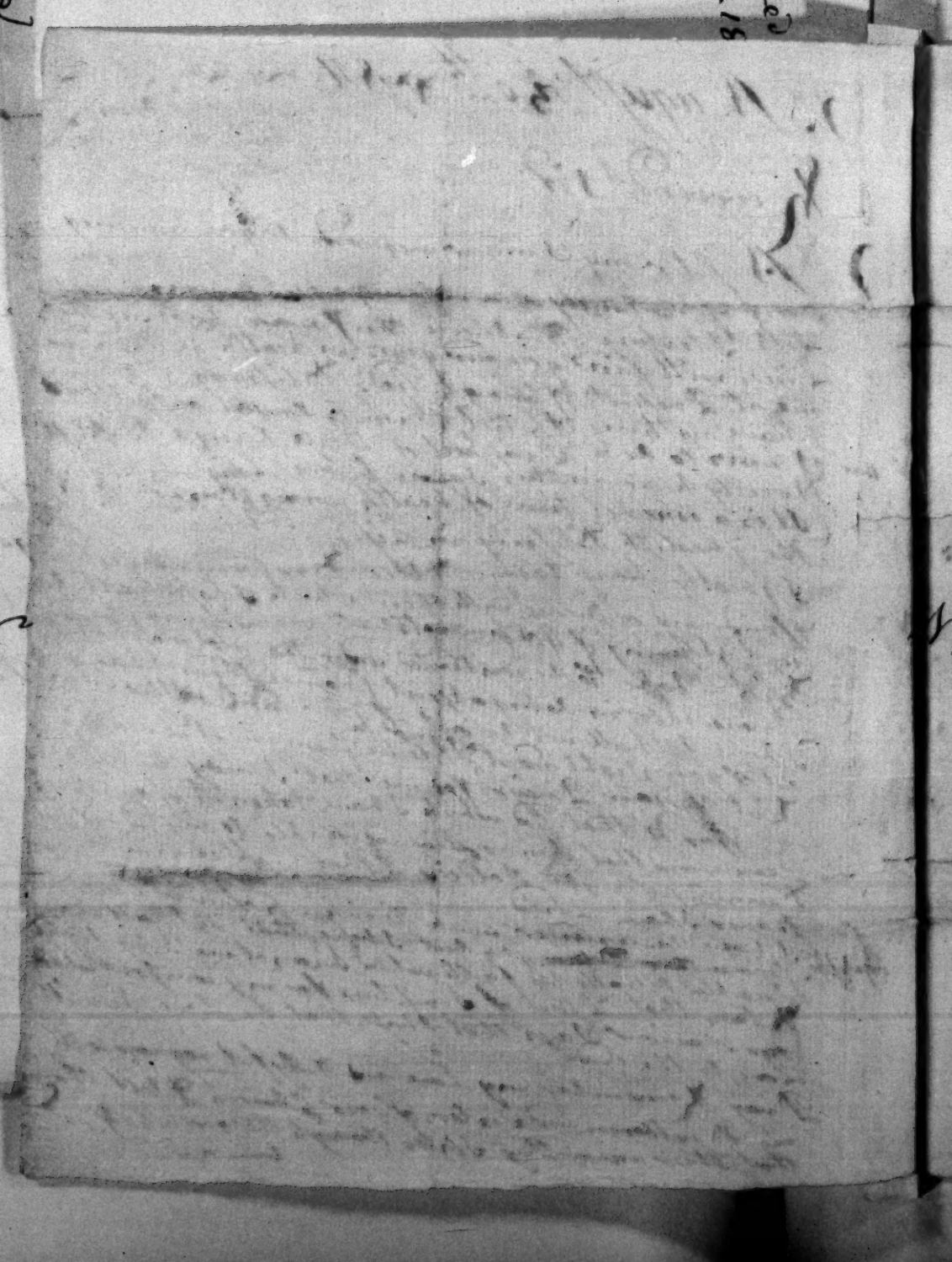
After my sincere regards to you having  
an opportunity of writing a few Lines to you  
with Pleasure I enclose the favour hoping these  
Lines will find you and yours in health as they leave  
me at Present through Gods Blessing  
I have nothing Special to write to you only that  
it seems to be a Prospect of their being a Baptist  
Society here in this Town before Long  
(It is a general time of health among them which is  
the greatest Blessing in Life)

I greatly Long to come thither to converse with them which I hope will be  
next of Spring if God permits

But I hope to be contented under the allotment of  
Providence in being absent from them  
I hope I shall not be get out of your mind at the same  
out of your sight and at distance from you at Present  
But beg your Prayers for me that I may be kept in  
the fear of that God which I have taken it upon me to  
serve and that I may give agreeable to my Profession  
I am worthy of a good Soldier of that Captain under whose  
Banner I have Listed

I have been under much Darkeness of mind since  
from ~~you~~ you best I hope that I shall be  
enabled to walk by faith when I cannot walk by sight  
I take that Place of Scripture for my comfort where  
our Saviour says that those that believe in him will  
live to the end

Pray Remember my Love and Dutyful regards to all  
my Brethren and Sisters of your Church I tell them  
that their unworthy Sinner through the goodness of God  
turn are





is yet number, with the Living and enjoy a comfortable  
situation in Life through the mercy of that being  
that order all things for his for his Glory and our happiness  
I Desire that when they can they for themselves  
they would pray for me also

But since God has so order. it in his Providence  
that we must dwell at a distance from each other  
it is my request to have a Dismission from your  
Church (and if you can find it in your hearts) a recommendation  
to some other Church where it should appear  
Duty for me to go, which at present I suppose  
would be the Church of Christ at Newbridge  
If you can find it in your hearts to grant my request  
I may be so hindered to send me back an answer by  
the carrier when he returns

I am with true respect to your dear friend and Sister in  
the Church Phoebe Lycom

W. I pray remember my love to all enquiring friends  
Especially to <sup>your own friends</sup> Mr. Star James Star &  
wife Simon Ames & family &c.

Brockfield August 5. 1782.

P.S. If if our dear friends should call you this way  
I may be so kind as to call and see me

State of New York  
Aug. 1786.

Recd. Jan. 1785

To the  
Hon. the  
Senate

of the  
State of New York

Resolved

That the  
Hon. the  
Senate

do hereby

Resolved

That the  
Hon. the  
Senate



September  
Sturbridge 9<sup>th</sup> 1835

Dear Sir with great pleasure I  
seize the opportunity of writing to you  
hoping that you & family & people  
enjoy a comfortable measure of health  
I would inform you that since I saw  
you I have <sup>been</sup> in a very unhealthy state  
of health not only so but a cloud of  
~~darkness~~ darkness & stupidity  
seems to cover my mind in a very great  
degree yet I think that I can look  
back as King David did when he says he  
will remember his God from the Lord  
of the harmonies from the hill mingled  
with unpeakable Luster & that I am  
chartered for life & that I am  
deserve to rely upon God's promise that though  
not he loves he will love to the end  
& I do trust that he has loved me to that  
degree that he has shed his precious blood  
for me this one of the vilest of the vile  
but blessed be God I do feel some resolu-  
tion that it is a night before with me

Requiesce to your family & friends  
Yours truly  
Wm. W. W.

Im  
13

pleas to Simon Ser...



To rapelle with God as Jacob did with the Angel  
at the day breaketh the the night.

Church & inform them of my situation  
and tell them that I hope they won't forget me  
but that where they pray for me  
they will pray for me also

pleas to inform the Church that I live  
where I attend upon Eld. Daddges ministry  
& that I think it expedient since my lot is  
cast here to request a dismission from  
your Church (if you can find it in your hearts)  
a recommendation to Eld. Daddges Church.

I have a special regard for their Eld.  
in a particular manner & likewise the

Church & look like my people & as the  
I had a desire to live and age with them

pleas to write to me by Eld. Daddge  
if possible I would send an answer to my  
request - Mr. Lyscom remembers this

unfeigned love & regards to you  
I remain your affectionate friend &  
Sister Phoebe Lyscom

83. the Lord seems to be carrying  
on his work in a glorious manner in these

parts especially in this town numbers  
seem to be in seeking out the  
seems to be praising God for redemptions

Regards to you & family W. G. Quibrace

I hope I am in an emergency  
I and are have a dependent upon  
to call upon you to be helped  
the Lord seems to be carrying  
by your prayers to him

Photo. E. J. Brown  
Sept. 9. 1785

Oct. 17. 1785

1785

Edw.

Isaac Brown

Middlebury



Dear Sir after my unfeigned  
regards to you & family I embrace  
the opportunity I have of writing to you  
with the greatest satisfaction  
through divine goodness we are all in  
health except my self I have another  
hard which I fear will prove very  
troublesome if I don't lose it  
I hope you & yours enjoy the like  
rich blessing

I have nothing of importance to write  
it is a general time of health among us  
I want very much to see you & your  
family but it is very unlikely that  
ever I shall tho' not certain

I find I live in a world of changes little  
did I once think that I should be  
separated from the happy prospect  
with you & family & dear Ch.  
but so it is ordered in divine providence  
& I must be content

1877

P. A. B. ...



I think much of you Dear Sir of the Instructions I have recd from you but I soon expect to meet you where I shall not need the help of any earthly friends when faith will be sweetened up in victory and all tears shall be wiped away from our eyes I still maintain a belief that the cause of God is more valuable than gold altho I live much in darkness Dear Sir when you can pray for your self remember your unwilling hand man & family pray Sir Remember my most affectionate Love to your Dear wife & Encourage them through this thorny maze I feel one with them tho at a distance from them I should be very happy I'm receiving a letter from you so I must conclude wishing you the good will of him that dwelt in the bush & I believe my self your engaged friend I have signed my self your engaged friend I have signed my self your engaged friend

My pleasure remembers my love to your family Mr Lyscom send his affectionate regards to you &c

Yours  
H. Burdage Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 1790.

Phile. Lyfcan;

Sept. 1. 1490.

Rec<sup>d</sup>. Sept. 14.  
8. 10.

Phile.

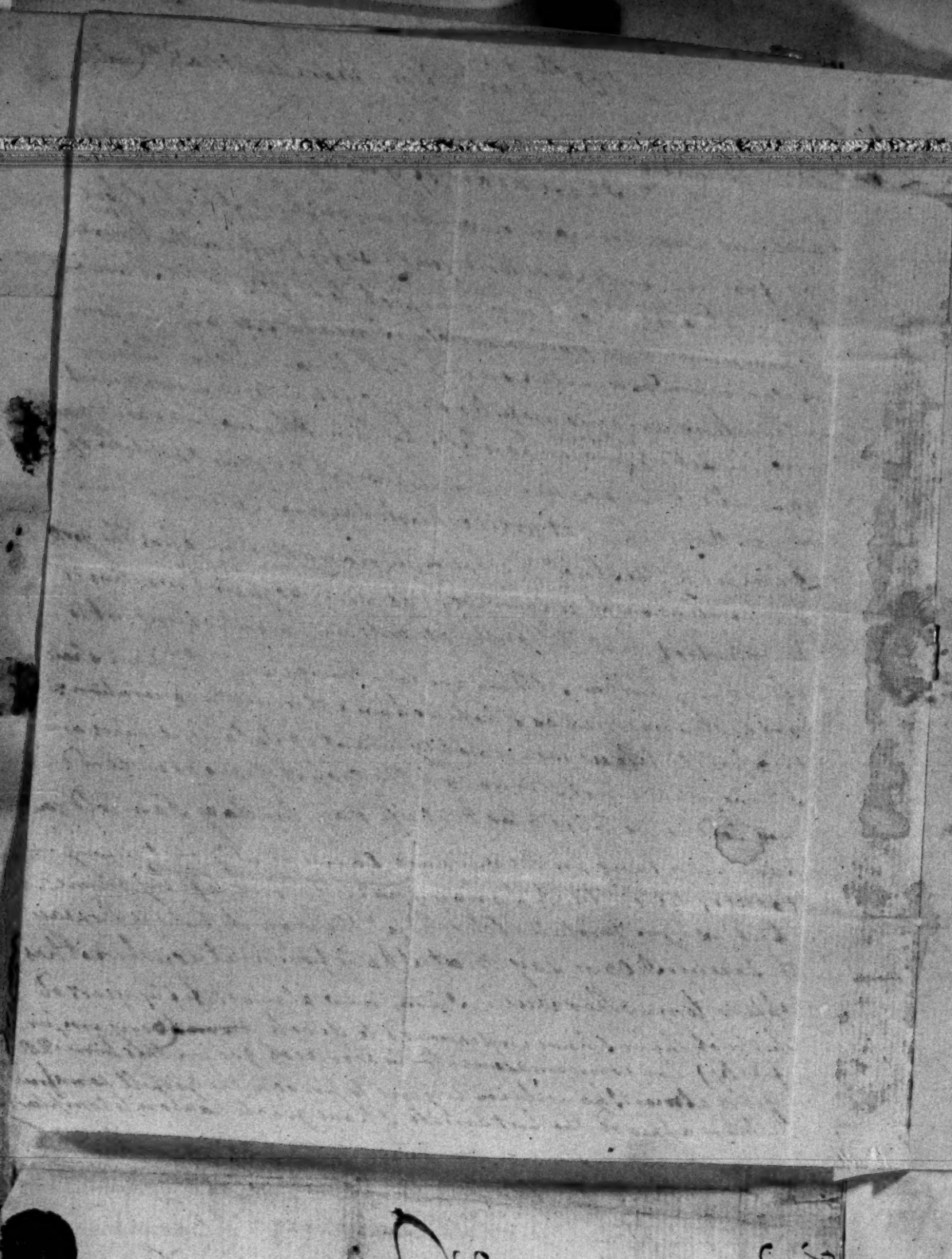
John Harris  
Middlebury



100<sup>th</sup> of the Year of the Republic, (1793)

at Br<sup>r</sup> Backus

I have heard of you by the hearing of the  
 Ear but my Eys have never seen you; but I hope I love  
 you for the Lords sake and your usefulness in the Church  
 of Christ. and tho I never expect to see you to gain an  
 acquaintance with you personally I make free to open a door  
 of correspondence with you, by Bro<sup>r</sup> Drame (whom labours  
 intravelling and his usefulness in cultivating an acquaint-  
 -ance by letters <sup>and otherwise</sup> are unparallel. by him I have at times got  
 acquainted with you, and a number more of the dear Children of  
 of god. there upright walk, knowledge, and Esteem in -  
 Divinity, the strict Occipien, among the Church has the good  
 and Delation of religion, &c.) yet my acquaintance thus is  
 so imperfect that it hardly affords me matter sufficient to  
 effect my purpose. There are some things in which we shall  
 not be strangers, if as I hope we have experienced regeneration  
 the apostle tells us we are not ignorant of Satans devices and  
 I hope we are not strangers to the Cross of Jesus as our Lord  
 has told us we have to take it up day by day I am told you  
 have been long in the vine and consequently met many -  
 crosses or difficulties, if I may make your life by mine  
 but as you wrote to Elder Ross "the way of duty is the way  
 of safety. I can say that I have found it so when it has  
 appear to me other wise. I am now almost fifty years old  
 thirty of them I have endeavourd to devote ~~themselves~~ <sup>very imper-</sup>  
 -fectly) in some measure to the service of god in this time 20  
 years almost I have been trying to preach the Gospel some fruit  
 to have appeard the but small I have great reason to complan





August 1<sup>st</sup> 1841  
 hearts hard the word comes to have but little impression on  
 them Dear Bro pray that the Lord would revive his work on  
 hasten the time when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the  
 Earth as the waters do the sea His name shall be one and  
 all shall bow to his scepter the time when a Nation shall  
 be born in a day then Nations will not rise against Nations  
 nor learn war any more the Lord in his wise Council and  
 providence hasten the happy period for Christ sake Amen  
 Believe me to be your sincerely

John McCabe

John M. Calk,  
Jan. 18. 1799      Answered July 6. 1799.

Recd. July 3.  
2. 1799.

Theresa Backus

Massachusetts  
by Rev. }  
Bramm }  
in the Town of  
Middletown









For you may give the account of what I  
 have written to you to as many of our brethren  
 as you can that they may all joyne to bless the  
 Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful work  
 to the children of men in the wilderness and of old  
 that their desires and prayers may be to God that  
 this work may speed through the land. Brother Potter  
 says by desire extend sometimes through a miracle and he  
 says he cannot stop there but all the Kingdom and nation  
 in the world.  
 I desire you would send me a few lines by the carrier  
 to let me know how you and our brethren do  
 so I concluded writing of you having blessings  
 from your friend and brother Job Macomber.

Dear Sir I fully embrace this opportunity of writing  
 a few lines to you I will inform you that I am well through  
 the goodness of it to me a poor unworthy worm I will inform you  
 we are joined with a very agreeable number of solid Christians  
 that walk very agreeably, but I have not forgot those  
 left behind. I desire to be remembered to them all and  
 desire an interest their prayers for me that I may ~~may~~  
 may live more devoted to Gods service Abigail Macomber

From the narrow Island again Three meetings

Joe. Macomber's ltr.  
Jan. 4. 1783.

Recd. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>

J. B.

S J M  
Isaac Backus  
at Middleborough



New Gloucester Decr 9 coming the 1-1783  
Dear friend These are to inform you that I and  
my family that are in those parts are well and though  
the tender mercy of god we are well provided for  
my wife is in a better state of health than she has  
been for some years as for religion in this town at  
present is at very low the numbers of very agreed  
baptists well established in the truth  
but I must inform you that on the 3 day of December  
Capt Woodman and I left our on a journey Capt from near  
on the same day preached at major burning at North  
Yarmouth and on the fifth day arrived on parson's  
Island near the mouth of Rensselaer river and preach  
there the same day where we found there had been a great and  
marvelous work began about a year and a half ago and  
no baptist minister nearer than Nathaniel Lord and heard  
of them and went to see them and baptized a large number  
but they informed me that there was about sixty  
baptized on that Island and on another Island and about  
eight miles from there called Jeremy's Plains  
and they appeared to be very sincere Christians  
that the least appearance of any wild disorders among  
them as has been in many places in this part of the  
country Decr 10 the 6<sup>th</sup> preached on Jeremy's Plains  
Island the 7<sup>th</sup> day at the town of Solley on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
day on parson's Island again Three meetings The same day  
from thence we heard of a wonderful work in potter's town  
which is about eight miles from Brunswick and we left  
our for the town and arrived there on the 10<sup>th</sup> day and there  
we found the work had begun about 18 months ago and so  
wonderful was the work among men women and children that  
they told us that there was none left in the town or within  
they were engaged by those out of town but in the town we  
found none we had five meetings in the town and they told us  
of a town about 7 miles from there called Smithfield where  
a work was nearly begun and we went there and found it was  
a township nearly begun and we went there and found it was  
log having we could hear their language in christian conversation  
so we kept the road we had four meetings in that town  
at one of the meetings at potter's town the a new town  
Capt Woodman judged there was above 200 people an away  
Cold day and James potter in the town met with his charge  
about 18 months ago being about 40 years old and there  
was no preacher in the town he told me he had spent  
15 months of that 18 in going from house  
to house



Warning the people of their danger while in a state of sin  
and before he met with his change he was pursuing the world to lose  
and got a great Effort and now he says he had rather throw  
his Effort all away than his mind should be entangled with it  
his greatest gift appears to be in prayer and conversation  
he has a great gift in discharging little children and his labors  
been greatly blessed he is gifted in discharging young converts he does  
not appear to be carried away in a passion or passion as is common  
for young converts but appears with sober grave countenance  
and it seems no cross for him to go from house to house and exhort  
men women and children it appears to me that it would be  
a greater cross to him to omit it than it would to go  
he told me that he had been gone a week from his family in a town  
called Bordenham and he said there was a great prevalence of a  
great work in that town all most every house in town then  
under great concern for their souls

on the 16<sup>th</sup> day we left the town and Mr Potter went with us  
as far as a place called Little River and there opened a great  
meeting in the mind of a great number about three weeks before  
Mr Potter told us they were a very secure unconcerned people  
we had upon a meeting there at evening on the 18<sup>th</sup> day  
we arrived home at New Gloucester again we was from home  
15 days and had 18 meetings before we went the journey  
Capt Woodman had been very early minded for some time  
but after this he spent two or three days after he got  
home from house to house discharging his neighbors concerning  
their souls

as for my own part I can tell you that I never had so great  
satisfaction in any visit or journey in all my life nor so  
great freedom in speaking them word I so often in my mind  
The wilderness shall blossom as a rose

These people at Pottery town were brought up among the  
Common Denomination and we never heard a protest preach  
but once before and that was at a small house when  
he was coming from the Islands when the work first began  
and they said they never heard such a sermon before  
or he delivered before we went there we heard they were of  
the Common Denomination but when we came to disprove them  
they used the greatest part of them were led by the  
Word and Spirit of God into the lowest baptism and  
waiting for an opportunity to be baptized

One thing more remarkable I shall mention and then conclude  
on one of them Islands I found two young women that was  
born blind and they were both sisters and both met with  
a change and both come to meeting where I was going to  
preach and when I saw them it brought that word to my mind  
to speak from David that I might receive my sight  
Capt Woodman nor myself never saw none of these people before



Bonadonham August 12 - 1788

Sir there are to inform you that through  
tender mercy of our god I and my family is  
All well and I have good news to write to you  
Which is a matter of joying to all that love  
the advancement of the great Redeemers Kingdom  
on June 29 I was in the town of Vassalborough about  
30 miles up the river from my house where there was a  
Baptist church fully imbolded consisted of 14 very  
Agreable members sound in principle I was there  
Requested to administer the ordinance of the Lords Supper  
to them and the same day there was a young woman  
Desired to be Baptized and she gave a very clear and  
Remarkable account of the Deliverance of her soul and  
Received and Baptized and the Lords Supper administered  
to her and married all on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June her name  
was Hannah Peigley she informed me that she was  
acquainted with you and desired to be remembered to you and  
your family and to brother Daniel Jobes the man she married  
was John Paulding was once a member of the church  
at Cheshford but now in the church in Vassalborough  
in this visit at Vassalborough I had great satisfaction  
in seeing love and union in the church and a number  
under real concern for their souls  
on June 30<sup>th</sup> I set out from Vassalborough to Bristol  
about 40 miles from there to an Island called Lough Island  
and on my journey through the woods I found  
a number much engaged in religion and on the  
Island where there had been very prophane some  
appeared to be under great concern about their souls  
on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Sept June our churches met at Lough Island  
and ordained ~~and~~ the friend of the motion who gave good  
evidence of an internal call into the work of the good  
ministry ~~and~~ and his labours are blessed for the  
soul and as he was examined into his experience and call  
and into his principles as he was giving an account  
coming baptizing many and a number of people  
publicly opposed him and spoke very hard against  
the ordinance of we practice this dispute was before  
a great number of people

He began with us now again and said you bind men  
consciencess for they must go as far as you say into the  
water or <sup>you</sup> will not receive them to ~~the~~ commune with you  
at the lord's table. Mr. Snow said to Mr. purrington do not  
you need they went in to the water and were baptised  
yes says purrington but how do you know they went  
in more than ane cle deepe and took up date and poured  
on then says Mr. Snow you leave they went in to  
the ~~the~~ water ane cle deepe and you never went to ~~for~~  
yet go as far as you believe we will not bind  
your conscience go in ane cle deepe

Mr. Snow look up on him and O you will be  
A baptist and a baptist preacher

And on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July Mr. purrington was  
baptised by Elder James Potter and I suppose as  
many people went to see him baptised ~~and~~ was  
at ordination to hear him oppose the ordinance  
of Baptism and Mr. Potter says he ~~ne~~ never saw  
no man let more cleave into the ordinance by the  
word and spirit of god in all his life and when he  
was going into the water he spoke in the most  
affecting manner as ever was heard in this part of the  
country and we have great reason to believe that  
he is called of god to preach the gospel being a man  
of great powers of mind and engaged in matters of religion  
and a man of good corrector he lives in the same town  
with Mr. Potter which is London Town newly incorporated  
and a revival of religion lately begun in the town  
and appears very encouraging that it will spread  
~~that it will spread~~  
The same day Mr. purrington was baptised I preached  
in Tappan at the house of John Morrell Esq.  
and baptised Samuel Dunlop of Brunswick  
he had been a member of the church of Mr. John Miller  
who once preached in Middleborough in Mr. Turner's  
presence and Mr. Dunlop's father was a minister  
in Brunswick for above 40 years and sprinkled  
presents and Mr. Dunlop says he heard his  
father say when there was not one baptist in

London Town I said that I might receive my sight  
and God may now myself near as none of the people before



in this part of the country that way that we practised  
was right but he continued <sup>in practice of</sup> ~~of~~ infant baptism  
till he died  
mr Danlop in his telling his experience says he  
had run to our miles and his church to ask for a  
Dismission and a letter of recommendation from that  
church to our church They used many arguments to  
prevent his leaving them but he told them he was  
convinced by gods word and spirit and desired they  
would give him a letter of recommendation and our miles  
said he could not give him a letter of recommendation  
except he would gett from under the hand of ~~your~~ his  
neighbours that ~~his~~ corrector is good

mr Danlop said to him this is very strange  
that you know my corrector so well that you try to  
keep me in your church and when I request to go  
to the baptist church you that know my corrector  
request me to prove it

But he had no objection from them but <sup>came</sup> of with many  
hard reflection from them  
A great number that had him baptised that never  
saw one baptised before and told them publicly  
that many would oppose him then yet he believed that  
~~many~~ many that were then present would soon practice it

But I should have given you a much larger account  
of affairs here but Eliza Cope is going with the letter  
from our association to yours and I expect he will  
give you a more full account then I can give in the letter

But as I trust you are a hearty friend to the cause  
of Christ and a hearty friend to me and my family  
I will give you some account of my circumstances  
we are all at present in good state of health my  
wife much better then she was when she was at  
you have my Daughter Abigail I trust has  
experienced a change of state I expect will be  
baptised soon and as to your outward circumstances my  
Aunt some times has been something of a trial to my  
mind but I have observed that <sup>with</sup> one way would  
be shut up on account of aliving in the world

of and so he has carried me and family thorough to this day  
and amidst the greatest trials I have met with I have  
never repented my coming into this country but have  
great reason to bless and praise God for the wonders I have  
seen done to me & to the rest of the children of men  
When I came first to this town I had but one cow and that  
was all the stock I had <sup>excepting a horse</sup> and now I have 3 cows 2 oxen 23 sheep  
and we have made near hundred weight of cheese  
this summer and I expect when we come to gett part of our  
grain next spring to be under of good circumstances  
for aliving as we was so for the present I feel in-  
couraged both as to my outward circumstances and the  
work of Gods being carried on in many places here  
So I must conclude wishing you much of the  
Divine presence J. B. Macomber

J. Macomber's letter

Aug. 12. 1788.

Recd. Sept. 9.

J. B.

place marked  
of middle of road



Bowdoinham August 4<sup>th</sup> 1790

Beloved and dear friends these come with my  
sincere and christian regards to you and your  
family hoping they will find you well as the  
goodness of god they leave me at present, I have  
heard of the loss of your youngest daughter but I hope  
I have made it up to you by affording you the light  
of his blessed countenance which I think I can say is  
better than sons or daughters, I think I can sympathize  
with you under such a trial the 21<sup>st</sup> day of last  
september god saw fit to take away my youngest  
daughter by death which was the heaviest trouble  
that ever I met with of that sort it pleased god  
to shew me what a stubborn will and corrupt  
heart I had, I had such heart rising against god that it  
was more bitter to me than the dying agonies of my dear  
child which was all most insupportable to all that  
beheld it she lay 24 hours in the agonies of death  
found but very little submission to gods will until  
last june it was suffered to be that I met with a  
sharp trial from one of the church and finding myself so  
unable to bear it god was pleased to shew me so much of the  
malice and hypocrisy of my wicked heart for some days together  
I began to be weary of the burden thinking even life to  
be a burden till at last it pleased god to give me such a  
view of the shortness of time that I thought ~~just as~~  
as long as god was pleased to shew me myself I found in my heart  
I could bless god for shewing me my depravity by nature  
and call upon my soul and all within to bless gods holy name  
for his dealing with me as he did thinking that  
the lord was killing sin in me and fitting me for heaven

Present to the record

Shaw backus and his wife

Middleborough

Abigail Macomber.  
Aug. 16. 1790.  
Rec. Oct. 6. —  
L. 23.

Copy of the original record of the first  
Cape Cod morning self news for none of the people before



I thought I could give up all I felt willing that God <sup>do his will with me</sup> in every thing; could rejoice to have those enemies brought out and slain I had a realizing sense of my entire dependance upon the merits of Christ finding I had nowhere else to go; I find I do not sufficiently plead the merits of a dying Saviour may God <sup>enable me</sup> to live more dependant creature as I am pray for the prosperity of Zion I think I have some faint desires that Christ's kingdom may be advanced we have some encouragement of its spreading there is a small settlement of about 16 families ~~that~~ back of Colby the winter past have been wonderfully wrought upon I think about 20 persons hopefully converted. Elder Potter have baptized a number of them there is one of <sup>them</sup> appears to have a public gift which is great satisfaction to the rest O may God's name be praised for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men; I must inform you of some sore trials I have had with regard to principals I was first tossed with the free will principals for eighteen months together till I was almost ready to give up all I had ever experienced till at last I was brought to give all up into the hands of a sovereign God last spring being visited by one of the universals I was void of any fear of being taken in by him about three days after pondering upon what he had said before I was <sup>unawares</sup> surrounded and taken like one in an enemies land not being sensible of my danger and of my watch as I expect I had a trial for about three or four days I betook myself to the bible I thought I found so much scripture for it that some times I was almost afraid to read but being ~~en~~ enabled to cry to God for strength to trust in him I was delivered out of the paw of that lion <sup>find</sup> that I am kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation many are the afflictions of the ~~of~~ ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> the righteous but the Lord delivers them out of them all be pleased to give my sincere and Christian respects to my brethren and sisters in Christ this from your most unworthy but sincere well wisher in Christ

Abigail Macomber

Pray be so kind as to writ to me

Part of a letter which I wrote to elder  
Maurice Nov. 6. 1488, but did not send till Oct. 1.  
1490, for want of opportunity.

— " In our town, deacon Benja died  
May 7. Dr. Mr. Daggett in August, Nathan Warren  
widow Aug. 15. Silas Woods wife Aug. 19, Let. D. Hairs  
Aug. 20, Stephen Robison was drowned. Aug. 29, Capt.  
Gideon Southworth d. Sept. 25, and how loud is the  
call to each of us, be ye ago ready!

With hearty regards to your wife and family, I  
rest yours in gospel bonds  
Isaac Backus."



it well and the Lord has remarkably  
supported us and carried us through <sup>many</sup> difficulties  
As to matters of religion no appearance of any  
revival here as at present there is 118  
Churches of us that are in fellowship  
and a great union among the greatest part  
of them at present and they appear to be  
Smart in principle Brother Peter and I  
continue faithful in their mystery  
Blessings of heaven may rest upon you and  
your family and all our friends with you

Sir I desire you to send this letter to my brother  
as soon as may you can by no means let  
fail of going to him and you will oblige your  
friend  
J. C. Macomber

15. ...  
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106 Macomber.  
July 16, 1989.  
Rev. Aug 9.  
P. B.

106 Macomber.  
July 16, 1989.  
Rev. Aug 9.  
P. B.









dearly beloved friends) Bowdoinham May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1819.  
My kind and Christian regard for you and your family  
inform you through the goodness of our god we are all well  
present for which mercy I desire to be humbly thankful  
received yours of Oct 4<sup>th</sup> my hearty thanks for your friendly  
vice and cautions that were therein I wrote you some account  
of the work of god in our parts of which I have heard more

we are 16 baptized and a number more that are hopefully  
converted in that place we expected letters from there leading  
either to you but they are not come as yet he remains  
well established in the truths of the gospel he preaches  
constantly amongst them to their great satisfaction last fall  
my husband took a journey to Vassalborough where he found  
a wonderful work of god going on in that part of the town  
where Mr John Jackson lives they told him there never had  
been but two sermons preached in that part of the town  
one by him and one by Mr Case before the work began the that  
was Silvey Jackson was strongly impressed upon to speak  
to the people but viewing the cross so great for a woman  
to go and warn them she prayed that the lord would raise up  
some man which he did soon after the man was one of her brothers  
which went in a most solemn manner from house to house  
it was credant that the lord went with him for in  
a few days time there was a number of them hopefully  
converted my husband baptized one of them

we lately hear from Northarmouth that there is a glorious  
work a number lately brought to the knowledge of the truth  
that men <sup>would</sup> bless the lord for this goodness to them and for  
his wonderful works to the children of men  
it would be endless for me to write my trials but  
must tell you how I was comforted under one very sore outward  
trial; trials may press of every sort they may be sore they must be short  
they may be sore they must be short my heart  
now believe but soon shall we  
the greatest glory god can shew.

It was pleased to shew me the shortness of the time I had to endure such trials  
with which he was pleased to give me patience to endure that or any other trial  
Abigail Macomber.

To  
the rev. Elder  
Isaac Backus  
in  
Middleborough

Abigail Mather,  
May 13. 1791.

Recd. June 18.  
J. B.



Bowdoinham July the 15<sup>th</sup> 1791 Dear Sir These  
I have to inform you that when I was at Taunton  
last June having so much business to do and my hope  
not with me that I could not come to see you and  
I take this opportunity to write to you to inform  
you that we are all well and after I arrived home  
from Taunton which was on the second Sabbath in June  
on the third Sabbath I was at Vosselborough by  
the appointment of the association and administered  
of the ordinance of the Lords Supper to a church at  
East end of the town and baptized one the same  
day and while I was there There came three  
men from the west end of the town about ten  
miles from that church and requested me to go  
over there and baptize a number and constitute  
a church there and I took four of the brethren  
~~with~~ at the East end to go over with me and we  
went and heard eight teen tell their experience  
and six teen we received two were not received but  
the sixteen gave a very remarkable account of  
the power of god in their lives since this revival  
Began last winter on Monday and Tuesday I preached  
three sermons heard 18 tell their experience and  
Baptized 14 and imbedged a church of 13 members  
and they expect a number more will join soon Vosselborough  
is about 40 miles above this town I hear that Mr  
Cory has traveled of late on one of the islands  
where there is a revival but I have not seen him to  
have any particulars a count Mr Potter is now on  
a journey back in the wilderness where we hear  
of a work of god he says we hear of a revival  
in North Yarmouth that in the month of late

there is one William Stinson of Bowdoin who dwells  
about 8 miles from us about two years ago was a very  
prophane man and a great scoffer of religion and  
now is become a publick preacher sound in principle  
and that god owns and blessing attends his labors  
So I think it would be full to see the goodness of  
our god in these dark corners of the earth  
I that men would praise the Lord for his good  
ness and for his wonderful works to the children of  
men my love to you and family and to all  
that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity  
Amen

Job Mearns

that journey and then I come home

Job Macomber  
July 15. 1791

Spd. Aug. 30.

D. B.

To  
Mr  
Isaac Backus  
of Middleborough



106 m. 1792.

106 m. 1792.

Bow Downham the 13<sup>th</sup> 1792 m. Nelson six after you  
have seen these my safely convey them to Mr. Backus

So Mr. Isaac Backus I'm these are to inform you  
that after a long and sore fit of sickness in my  
family that we are now in a good state of health  
they have taken sick with a fever the last week in last  
August and I and two of my daughters tended them about  
sixty nights and a great part of that time no expectation  
of the life of my wife and some of the children my wife was  
unable to move one foot ~~for~~ for two months but when all  
the skill of Physicians failed our heavenly father who  
is like him self have raised them all up again and my  
wife is this day gone about ten miles from home  
but if I was to tell you of all the trials I have met with  
since I saw you from enemies within and without it would take  
a pile of paper I have met with trials in my own family  
that I never expected and from false brethren which  
have been very grievous to me above what I can express  
with my tongue or pen the same month that my family was  
sick my son Seth brook open a stone and stole some  
goods and is gone of and I never expect to see him no more  
his conduct has been very grievous to me for three years  
since he committed that horrid crime he by his bad conduct  
ruined a hundred dollars and my son Southworth was  
bound for him and Seth went of and left Southworth  
pay the whole sum ~~that~~ so that Southworth was  
obliged to go of while the family was sick with  
fevers now in his eyes never expecting to see his mother  
no more the same day that I heard that Seth had  
brook open the stone I was going out of the house to go  
to preach and baptize at South Island about 40 miles  
from home and I went a day with a heavy heart and  
left my family all in tears and when I came to  
the island and the people gathered and I began to speak  
to them my trouble would all flee from me and when I con-  
cluded my trouble would come upon me again and I  
continued through that journey and then I came home  
found Seth was gone and family was overwhelmed in sorrow

of God and at about the same time

Two years ago I lost a little daughter and  
I will give you an account of my trouble by a poem that I  
composed soon after her death

Hark hark Dear friends hear me relate  
The sorrows of my heart of late  
By death's alarming sound  
The Lord unto me nigh hath come  
My little daughter taken home  
Who lies in the cold ground

2

Her pleasant ways was much I admired  
Her life and breath I so desired  
I thought my joys were fled  
When God by his almighty arm  
And sovereign power with death's alarm  
Numbered her with the dead

Her ~~last~~ siths and groans did pierce my heart  
When she was called for to depart  
My grief but few doth know  
Her eyelids rained with weeping eyes  
Hearing her with a pleasant voice  
Hide me and let me go

After these words she soon went home  
The sovereign power of God came down  
To call mourners to resign

O that we may be happy be  
In and unto the ~~day~~ Lord to say  
Ever our <sup>own</sup> wills but ~~thine~~

And after all this good divine  
Shall I brought my soul for to resign  
My thoughts could trouble'd be  
In musing on her pleasant days  
On words I often heard her say  
Would of ten come to me

When in distress with siths and groans  
I watching with her all alone

The little child did say  
Daddy says she late in the night  
You get the candle and it light  
Water was her necklace

It was dear to my brother  
I promise of my daughter of  
my trouble and I have been  
formed They have ~~not~~ never  
let my mother know of it  
and my desire is that she may never know of it till the day of her death  
So you that need this tale may keep it to your selves and pray for us



hearing her voice so pleasant by  
I said to her think you shall die  
yeas says she I gess I shall  
that she to the wanted to gett well  
I gess says she I never shall  
my grief you cannot tell

One night in musing all alone  
Since my dear child was dead and  
My sorrows very great  
I could I hear her pleasant voice  
I thought it could my heart rejoice  
Some things for to relate

While I was musing on this day  
I thought I heard my Saviour say  
So pleasant and mild  
My peace unto you I will give  
My peace unto you I will leave  
from a meek and lowly child  
O then I thought that I could leave  
my child to rest still in the grave  
Still time shall be no more  
And if my heart don't me deceive  
her immortal soul I now can leave  
With christ for evermore

I may I warn all you to fear  
my children and my wife to hear  
your favours lowly call  
When ever you are called to die  
May you with all submission lie  
his lowly feet to fall

O may this child a warning be  
to neighbours round as well as we  
your souls for shelter flee  
for it is greatly to be feared  
that many souls now unpurged  
for a vast eternity

This child I was in her 14<sup>th</sup> year when she died  
16th in his 30<sup>th</sup> when he went of  
And as to the number of tears that fell from my eyes  
in writing this letter you never will know  
And many more difficultes I have met with in the  
Church but I have often thought of what you told me

of god and of christ's suffering which I

We must be tried every way.  
But notwithstanding all my trials I have the greatest  
Reason to bless and praise God for the favours & joy in  
My family that is left with me and the favours & joy  
in a number of brethren and sisters in the church  
and in travelling round a great distance in many  
parts of this eastern country and seeing the wonder-  
full works of God in many towns ~~the~~ the week before  
last I was in Vassellborough Wintrop and Fairfield I was  
gone 14 days and preached 12 sermons a revival of religion  
Now in Wintrop I was there last week and they told me they  
expected in that town who in time past opposed the  
Baptist now expected a baptist church to be ready soon  
I saw there one woman that formerly belonged to me & her  
her name was Standley and was a cripple and could not go  
she told me that she had been a great opposer of the  
Baptist and more so the revival there then ever be-  
fore and to strengthen herself against the baptist she  
lent for our fishes book in favour of infant baptism  
and she read it out once and it strengthened her mightily  
and she had a brother that was brought out and fell in  
with the baptist principle and she said she thought  
she would need it again and send it to her brother  
and as she was reading it through the 2<sup>d</sup> time she was  
convinced of the Baptist principle it made me  
think of the title of your book a fish caught in  
his own net then she told her husband that she  
was convinced that she was not baptized and asked him if  
he was willing if a baptist minister should come for her  
to be baptized he said yes not long after a minister went  
into that town and she told her husband that now was  
the time and he forbade it as they both belonged to the other  
church she told him it was a command from the Lord for her  
to be baptized and as she was a cripple she could not go  
without help and if he would not help her to the water  
the sin would lie at his door and he went immediately  
and carried her to the water and perused Baptized her  
to the Lords a working wonders in many of those parts  
Revival in in number of towns around us light and truth  
breaking in to the minds of the people day so that not with-  
standing all my troubles I have great reason to bless God for his  
goodness and for wonderful works to the children of  
men and I feel more encouraged in the cause of God  
the religion of Jesus Christ then ever I did before  
so I must conclude with a real desire and prayer to God  
that that may find your family well in health  
and well in Christ Jesus  
from your sincere friend and brother J. G. Mearns



Answered June 21. 1799.

at Backus

ugh

Apr. 29. 1799.

Recd June 8-

L. D. B.



April the 29: 1799 Bowdoinham

Dear Sir it is a long time sence I saw you or  
heard from you or your family and church and do not  
know that ever I shall see <sup>you</sup> again till we meet  
in the world above

I know that you love to <sup>see</sup> the prosperity of Tim  
it is with great satisfaction that I now write to you  
to let you <sup>know</sup> of the blessings of heaven to me and my  
family and to these dark regions of the east

When I first came here there was not one minister  
nor church of our order and I was the first that made  
Any motion to <sup>have</sup> a church constituted in this order  
And had to go my self to a minister in hampshire

Association to come a great distance to Baptize  
And constitute a church in Bowdoinham in may  
24: 1784 containing 30 members and I was the

first that was ordained in this part of the east part  
of this order and in August 18: 1784 and now there  
is 29 churches 1233 members and 18 ordained ministers

And a number more that we expect will be ordained  
~~there~~ within a short time in our association

And sence our last association Elder William Stinson  
who married my daughter Abiah and is ordained  
over the first church in lichfield baptised  
in the winter past 118 the greatest part of them  
belonged to that town my son Ebenezer and  
four daughters that are married all belong to  
his church and all their husbands

could need it again and send it to her brother



The winter before last the most powerful  
work in Bowdoin that ever I saw since I came  
into the country it prevailed through the town  
Elder Grotter baptized 22 in one day  
And this last winter as powerfull in Lishfield  
Elder Stinson baptized 13 in one day and told  
As cold winters as ever was known in the  
Eastward and now the work of god is begun  
in Bowdoin have all three of these towns joyne  
Six in this town lately manifested a change  
of them was my son Job and daughter Sarah  
All my daughters give good evidence of a  
Change and all joyne the church  
Job was baptized the Lords Day before last  
And the work now prevails in Bowdoin have  
you may remember that I informed you of some  
Difficulty between me and one of my Deacons  
I will now inform you that it continued the year  
And was settled last winter and he is become  
A good friend to me and to the cause of god  
I remember I went to you some years ago  
for some advice in that respect and your  
Answer was that I must expect to be tried  
Every way and I cannot tell you how many times  
I have thought of that expression  
But notwithstanding I have thought my trials have  
been every way <sup>yet</sup> when I come to consider of the goodness  
of our god to me and my family and to this dark corner  
of the world I think my trials are nothing and I have  
have the greatest reason to bless and praise god of any  
person under heaven <sup>gray</sup> <sup>forces</sup>  
And if you can write to us leave your letter at Elder Baldwins

This subject

To Elder  
of middle

ould need is



Burdoinham April y<sup>r</sup> 29: 1799

have set apart this coming to Discourse with  
a concerning the goodness of god to my soul  
this subject seems of such importance  
that my senses are quite swallowed up in  
Admiration: How can a roving mind contain <sup>such</sup> ~~a~~  
wonders, But since grace admits of no apol  
gies I proceed - The 6 day of last february  
was taken as it were out of the belly  
of hell and my feet set upon a rock  
and a new song put in my mouth  
and praise to the most high - The  
heavens which I formerly thought were  
a gloomy aspect now seemed to glitter  
with the glory of god - and earth & ~~all~~  
animals seemed gently to whisper praise  
to their creator - this new scene reminded  
me of man in his first happy state  
in this frame I had a view of the justice  
of god and of christ's Sufferings which I

can describe to none but those who have  
drunken into the same fountain —  
february the 9<sup>th</sup> I was enabled to follow  
my blessed saviour into the water —

But since I have been brought to see  
that I am nothing and to abhor myself  
my love with motherly to your wife  
and family — & the union of christianity  
though I never saw you — yet you  
seem to twine with tripple cords around  
my very heart — yet the devil often  
tempts me telling me I love not  
god or his people — but blessed be his name  
I yet enjoy peaceful seasons — and I  
desire your prayers to god that I may  
stand stedfast in the faith — as I trust  
you have stood — and that you may go  
on in the glorious employment that  
you have spent your days in. in the <sup>gth</sup> ~~th~~ <sup>th</sup> ~~th~~  
of god warning sinners and comforting  
saints till in a good old age you



less than o my leanness &c I often  
you resign all up into the hands <sup>of</sup> god  
to reign with him for ever and ever  
which I trust will shortly come to pass  
is the ardent desire of ~~the~~ ~~one~~ ~~who~~ ~~is~~  
one who is highly favoured of god in  
subscribing herself your sister in christ

Jarah Macomber

For you will grant us a favour by  
taking letters from nathaniel and ~~of~~ ~~the~~  
elijah macombers - to be conveyed with  
yours to mr Baldwin

Samuel Mendenhall

April. 29. 1799,

Reid June 8. —

28. 93

Answered June 20. 1799.

To Elder

Isaac Backus

of Middleborough



I have just received your letter of the 18th inst. all right all was  
 Most affectionate brother or father in  
 Christ. I wish to humbly improve this opportunity  
 in answering this letter you wrote me  
 which I assure you was no small satisfaction  
 to me. When I wrote you before the divine  
 words of love seemed sweetly to unite my heart  
 with yours - and ~~gave~~ gave me anxiety to be  
 with you. But thought if religion decays in  
 me as in times past - in a short time I shall  
 be destitute of any desires of this kind - blessed  
 be the Lord I trust I still retain the same <sup>one</sup>  
 warm you and all who stand in the <sup>the</sup> coun-  
 cil of God - though at times I have reason  
 to lament my luke warm situation - I have  
 on marvellously carried through unexpected  
 scenes of darkness and have seen my own  
 filthiness to my astonishment and could say  
 less than of my leanness &c I often  
 collect your aged mother who said in a  
 moment of rejoicing what unseen trial is  
 the Lord preparing me for -

I have had some letters from him that are expected  
letters from he say he began to write but his writings  
looks so broken that he was fearful it would be a  
burden to you; I would intreat of you Sir to  
write to him for encouragment to him  
Brother Stinson lives in  
Bondoin  
Migail Macomber

Saml. Mander

June 2. 1800

Tryon Co

June 21. 1801.

Recd. Sept. 29.

1800.

ED

Thos Jackson

He died

Wadsworth

July 14. 1802



When i was on the mount i thought all  
~~was over~~ yet i now believe the love was  
 in mercy preparing me for them —

The loss of my brother the grief of my  
 parents together with my own infirmi-  
 ties both of body and mind i believe  
 would quite have overpowered my sen-  
 ces had i not found god a present help in  
 time of trouble — But i have been

enabled to surrender him together with  
 all that concerns me into the <sup>hands of</sup> the great  
 god of justice and purity — But i conclude  
 with wishing that you may go on in the  
 glorious work of the ministry with a  
 full resolution with mr whitefield  
 rather to wear out than rust out till  
 you are called to bid a ~~fine~~ farewell to  
 this world ~~and~~ then be enabled to say with  
 happy simeon now letest thou thy servant  
 depart in peace since mine eyes have  
 seen thy salvation — From your  
 unworthy though sincere friend

Sarah — Boardman  
 Macomber of





Algail Mamm.

May 17. 1791

Recd. June 18

L.B.





August 26 1800 Dear Sir These are to  
inform you that I received your letter by  
Elder Nelson with great satisfaction to hear  
of your welfare and of the affairs of the redeemed  
kingdom carried on in your parts of the country  
I think I love to hear of the prosperity of Zion  
And can rejoice altho my grief is great at the  
loss of my son Job who was drowned the 19 Day of  
last November with two more of my neighbours  
with him within 3 miles of my house the heavy  
floodings come to me and my wife when we was  
forty miles from home a sorrowfull time it was to  
us and to the whole ~~neighbourhood~~ family and neighbours  
I should have fainted had I not been enabled to see the  
goodness of the Lord in the land of the living  
our people had great satisfaction in the visit  
of Elder Nelson

No appearance of any revival very near us at  
present the Lord works in his own way and  
on his own time his will be done and ~~not ours~~  
And our happiness consists in having a submissive  
will to the will of heaven undoubt our trials here  
my love to you and your wife and children praying  
to the Lord that these lines may find you all well  
I leave your prayers for us my family is well  
no more at present I remain your friend and  
brother  
Job mancomber

Answered June 26. 1801.

86 mander,  
Aug. 26. 1800.  
Recd. Sept. 19.  
1801.

To Elder  
Jacob Backus  
of Middleborough



London <sup>from</sup> August 23 1800

Grand and dear father in Christ Jesus  
 Joyfully received your by <sup>letter</sup> brother Nelson  
 who was joyfully received by us as cold water  
 to a thirsty Soul so is good news from a far  
 Country we have at present but little appearance  
 of the power of religion amongst some negro girl  
 we lately manifested a change and appears to  
 a humbled creature we have lately heard of a  
 wonderful work of god in nardin to eastward of us  
 for my own part at present I sense but little  
 of my own barrenness I can say with the  
 prophet my barrenness my leanness I shall inclose  
 a few lines that I wrote to send to you but  
 missed the opportunity the relish of this blessed  
 season continued for above a year which  
 gradually decreased I have been carried through  
 any trying years since but supported by this  
 blessed promises in gods holy word & the faithfulness  
 of god to correct his children for their  
 recklessiding a heavy trial last november yr 19<sup>th</sup>  
 & son Job was drowned in merry meeten bay  
 we was published to be married Thanksgiving day  
 we took the young woman home she was fatherless  
 and motherless she was taken with the disontery lay  
 in three weeks twice thought to be dying  
 her mind stayed trusting in the lord  
 through the goodness god ~~was~~ to our dear son he  
 manifested a change of heart march before his  
 death

Yr his Dear and tender Am

[illegible]

1991



O the goodness of God to such a poor unworthy man  
that he <sup>has</sup> favoured me with a hope for so many of my  
children i have but three but what have  
professed religion and one of them i trust comes it  
troubled with diseness in my head which hinders  
me from writag and must conclude with my  
with hearty pregangs to you your wife and  
children and to all the dear brethren wishing  
you grace mercy and peace through our lord  
Jesus Christ.

Abiggil Macomber

For if you can wite to me iclose the within and  
return it be pleased send by your representative  
to hand to geames rogers of Bowdoin

at his Dear and tender

Abigail Ma. on 8

Aug. 23. 1800.

Recd Sept. 15. -

2. 23.

Middleborough

Angeline June 26. 1801.  
Isaac Backus  
to Elder.

Abigail Ma. on 8



Bowdoinham, February 17<sup>th</sup> 1792

Dear Sir

I gladly embrace this opportunity of writing  
to inform you of my health and the state  
of my mind which is well established  
in the truth of the gospel but Pride &  
the vanities of this world gets so fast  
hold of me at times that it seems  
as if I almost lost the sense of religion  
which makes me to cry out at times  
with the apostle Paul O wretched Creature  
that I am who shall Deliver me from this  
Body of Sin and Death - I have of late made  
a visit over in Bowdoin where I had the  
happiness to hear Elder Case preach one  
sermon & William Stinson two which both  
seem to be wonderfully engaged in the cause  
of Christ the Christians seems to be stirred  
up of late in that place some sinners are  
awakened to a sight and some of these danger  
are out of Christ William Stinson has  
lost his Dear and tender Companion who  
left great satisfaction with all his friends  
he well being in an other world William &  
Abner Stinson both had a great mind William &  
is right to you but I believe they are troubled with

consideration of present state of Elder Rounds Church

He same Discharge that for and O. P. I.  
It would be great satisfaction to them  
to receive a letter from you if you could  
make it convenient so in expectation  
of finding you all in health & must conclude  
but wish to be remembered to your wife  
and family these from your sincere friend &  
well wishes in Christ Amen

Abiah & Naomi

Abiah Naam.

Feb. 14. 1792

Recd.

Dear Backus



Dear Brethren

By this you will know that, upon the Representation  
of Request of Elder Aix to our church; & taking into  
consideration of present state of Elder Round's Church;  
but especially, as we have had repeated assurances that  
they judge it not expedient to join in your designed  
separation; Our church thought it most eligible  
not to send Representatives at this time.

The Core of all difficulties, amongst all parties,  
appears to us to lie between of Late Elder Rounds, &  
Aixes Chh<sup>rs</sup>: As if? non concurs, we judge there can  
nothing be done. Would my business have permitted  
I should have been glad to have been w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>ou</sup> in a private  
Capacity: But wishing you much of the divine blessing

Dear Mother

*[The page contains faint, illegible handwriting throughout.]*



And success in your endeavours to promote peace in  
the Churches of our Lord Jesus Ch,

I rest Your unworthy Brother

<sup>114</sup>  
Nov. 16. 1768

In the Gospel  
James Manning

Letter from Warren  
Nov. 8. 1868.

from James M. Manning

James Manning, Esq.

The Rev. J. M. Manning

Proctor, Friends and Six

at the Conference at

Northampton



It is so long since I had the pleasure of a line, or a visit  
from you; but I hope you enjoy health & if possible of our common  
land. about y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> of this instant I expect to set out for the Jerseys  
and be absent until some time in June; and it is the earnest re-  
quest of our Church as well as myself, that you would by leave of Pro-  
vidence, supply my pulpit the 21<sup>st</sup> of May: I now write to Mr. Smith,  
to come of Sabbath of 21<sup>st</sup> & have mentioned to him, if you, or he  
should be pre-engaged, so as not to come at the time I appoint, that  
it is matter of indifference to us, if you come the 21<sup>st</sup>, & Mr. Smith the  
21<sup>st</sup>. We have had some additions since I saw you, but there is no  
unavoidable appearance of Religion amongst us at present; nor  
foreign news of consequence. I hope it may suit you to come and  
visit the Church in my Absence, though, to me, it would be more  
agreeable to be present, with love to Mr. Backus.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours &c

James Manning

Wm. H. Warren  
Letter N. 8. 14 69

Wm. H. Warren Apr. 8. 14 69

Recd. April. 16

N. 13.

Middlebury

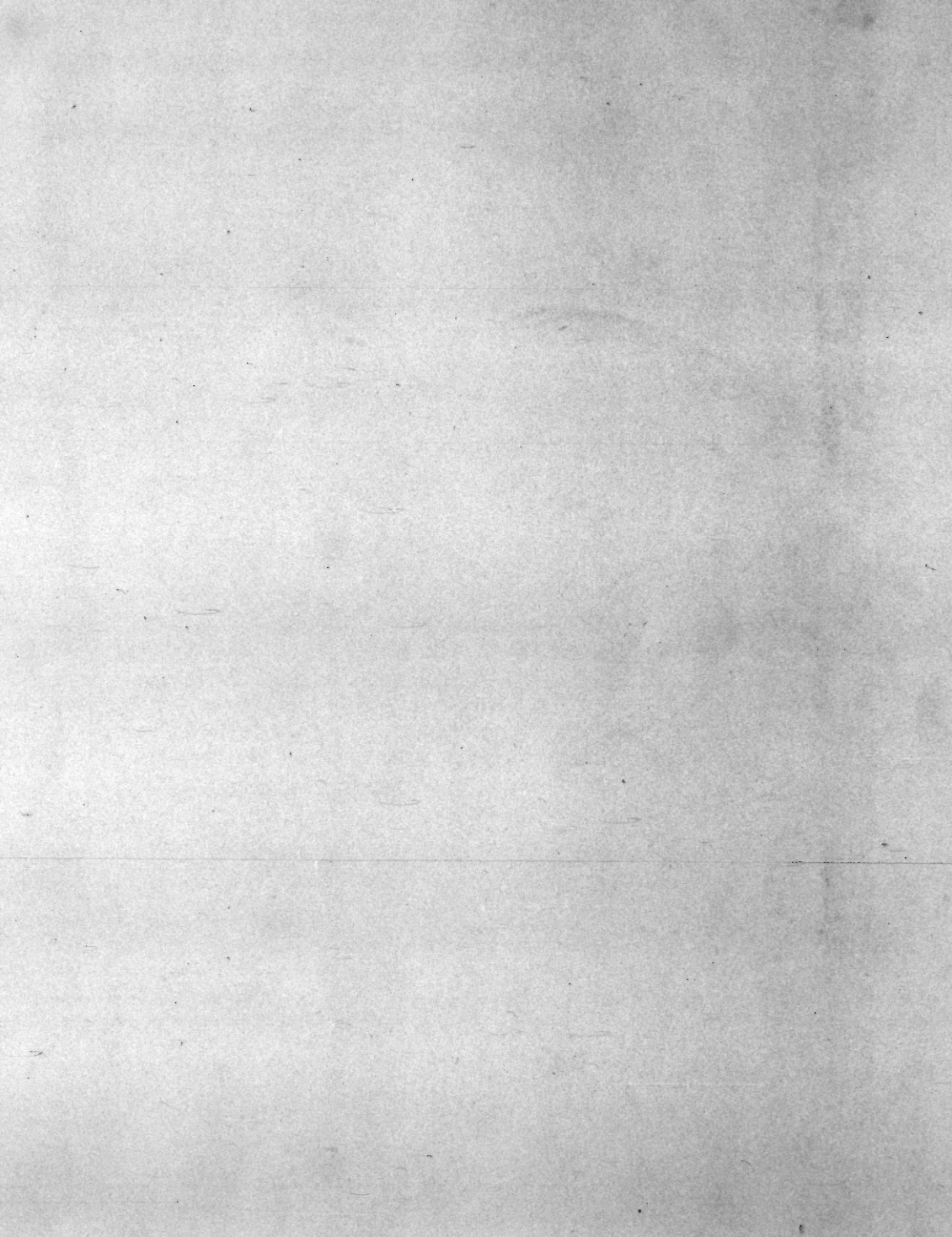
In

Mr. Jos. Isaac Packard

Dear Sir









Dear Sir

This is to notify you that Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of this Inst. April is the Day on which the Corporation are to meet at Warren, and the Day before is appointed for the Committee of Ministers to meet & converse with our Fbh. Society relative to myself I hope Providence will open a ~~door~~ <sup>free</sup> ~~way~~ <sup>path</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>attendance</sup>; as it is a matter of great consequence to me, if not to the Society under my care. Besides the conduct of Newport in petitioning for a Charter in that Town, renders it absolutely necessary that we should draw up a Memorial to lay before our general Assembly in May, to prevent, if possible, their answering the Request of Newport in this matter, for the Design might be very prejudicial to our College; although few of the Baptists in Newport patronize the design. Our friend Mr Edwards was in Colth of 28<sup>th</sup> of March, so that he was mistaken respecting himself. I hope that God has more for him to do in the Vineyard before he will miss him from this mortal State. Things wear a gloomy aspect amongst us as to Religion; though one of the Youth in the Freshman Class seems under hopeful Impressions of a Religious nature.

Give my Love to your Spouse & family, and to the Brethren of my acquaintance. And accept of my worthy wishes for your Souls Prosperity, & the abundant success of your ministerial Labours. Pray endeavour to be with us, if possible at, or time mentioned, & you will add a fresh Obligation to the many already acknowledged by,

Dear Sir

Warren April 7<sup>th</sup> 1770

Your unworthy Brother

In the Gospel

James Manning

From President  
Manning Apr 7  
1470 Rec. April 13

W. D. Bennett

Manning  
1440

Isaac Backus

He Recd

To

Private letter  
of Isaac Backus.

Pres. Manning  
Letter Apr 7. 1440



Providence Oct. 27. 1772

We arrived home last Friday. found our friends  
generally well to the westward. had a most agreeable Association &  
have just got a letter returned for you the following Subscri-  
bers, Messrs John Gano, Samuel Jones, & William Vanhook  
each half a dozen of the Books you propose to print, which is  
to whom you may add me to make up the 2 dozen - Saturday  
I rec'd a letter from Geo. Smith of London, informing me  
on board Capt. Shand, were shipped the whole of Dr. Gill's  
books, which are presented to the College Library by himself  
Dr. John Gill A Valuable Present  
Mr. Don waits with impatience

Yours  
B. Shave. W. Edwards's Collection  
respects respecting this Colony, which I  
should be glad you should see, before they  
returned. It is a considerable Volume  
Yours  
James Manning

Rec<sup>d</sup>  
Oct. 28. 8. 13.

Mr. Manning's Letter.  
Oct. 27. 1772.

Dr

Mr. John Parker

in

per  
of

W. Ashberry



Rev. Sir,

Providence April 12<sup>th</sup> 1773

This is to inform you that I am just returned from  
the West<sup>Ind</sup>; & have certain Information that a Number of Baptist Churches  
will meet the third Tuesday in May, at Old Milford, in the North Parish  
of New London, in order to see if they cannot agree to adopt the Articles of  
Faith held by the western Association. 7, or 8 Churches have met several  
times before, to see if they could not come into some order of this kind; and  
they have a Prospect of accomplishing it. Could you attend, carry some of  
the Plans of the Warren Association, & advise with them I verily believe it  
might greatly serve the Interest of Religion. I would gladly attend if  
public Business did not prevent me — Pray attend if possible. With  
Respects to you & yours

Yours to serve  
James Manning

It will be a good time to sell  
some of your Books; for I was enquired of  
respecting them

Wm<sup>d</sup> Isaac Mackus

than

Rev.

To

Isaac Backus  
of

Middleborough

Mr. Manning's  
Letter Apr. 12. 1793.

Recd. Apr. 26  
J. B.



Brother,

Providence June 25: 1773

Inclosed I send you what I recd. from  
Mr Edwards in answer to the Letter I wrote him  
at your Request the one to me, you may return;  
and with it I should be glad to hear of your Meeting  
at N. London, &c. — Nathan Olmpton is now here  
to solicit me to attend the funeral of our Brother  
at Medfield to-morrow; and to preach  
there the next, being Lords-day — Which Request  
is so sudden that I know not what to do on the  
occasion, as it is now Friday — Give my Love  
to Mr Packus & friends except the same  
yourself from

Yours unworthy Brother

James Manning

Recd. Aug. 8.  
9. 13.

Mr. Manning & Co.  
June 25. 1973.

Lo

Geo. Isaac Perkins  
at

Waltham Mass.



Rev. Sir,

Providence Nov<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1773

This Evening I rec<sup>d</sup>. a Letter from M<sup>r</sup>  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Jones in which is this Paragraph "The Subscription  
for M<sup>r</sup> Buecus's Books, I endeavoured to promote, &  
had remarkable Success. The Number of Books are  
275. I hope you will remember your Promise, of letting  
us have them as cheap as possible; or, else am afraid  
I shall be of means of bringing many to Regentome;  
and particularly remember we are entitled to them  
at a cheaper rate than they are sold at by y<sup>e</sup> single  
Book, since we take them by wholesale: you may  
put y<sup>m</sup> up in two Parcels; of one directed to y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup>  
M<sup>rs</sup> Rogers of Philadelphia, containing 210 Books;  
of other to y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> John Gano in New York, with 65;  
I have informed the Subscribers they shall have them  
as soon as may be; and shall then be informed of the Price;  
and also desired them to send the Money to y<sup>e</sup> Association  
at New York off latter End of next May?"

You see the Contents of this Letter, which is an Answer  
to one I wrote, to him, before the Publication of your  
Appeal to the Public, consequently, I could not tell the Price  
But told him they would be sent as cheap as they could  
be afforded, to help you, induce them to buy, and under  
the Publication as extensive as possible. I hope no time  
will be lost in sending them forward: for the Com-  
munication between this and Philadelphia will  
be soon shut up for this Winter — I enclose, I send  
you my Minutes, &c, for your Perusal And am  
with Respect

Sir

Your unworthy Brother

James Manning

Mr. Manning's

Letter, Nov. 15. 1773.

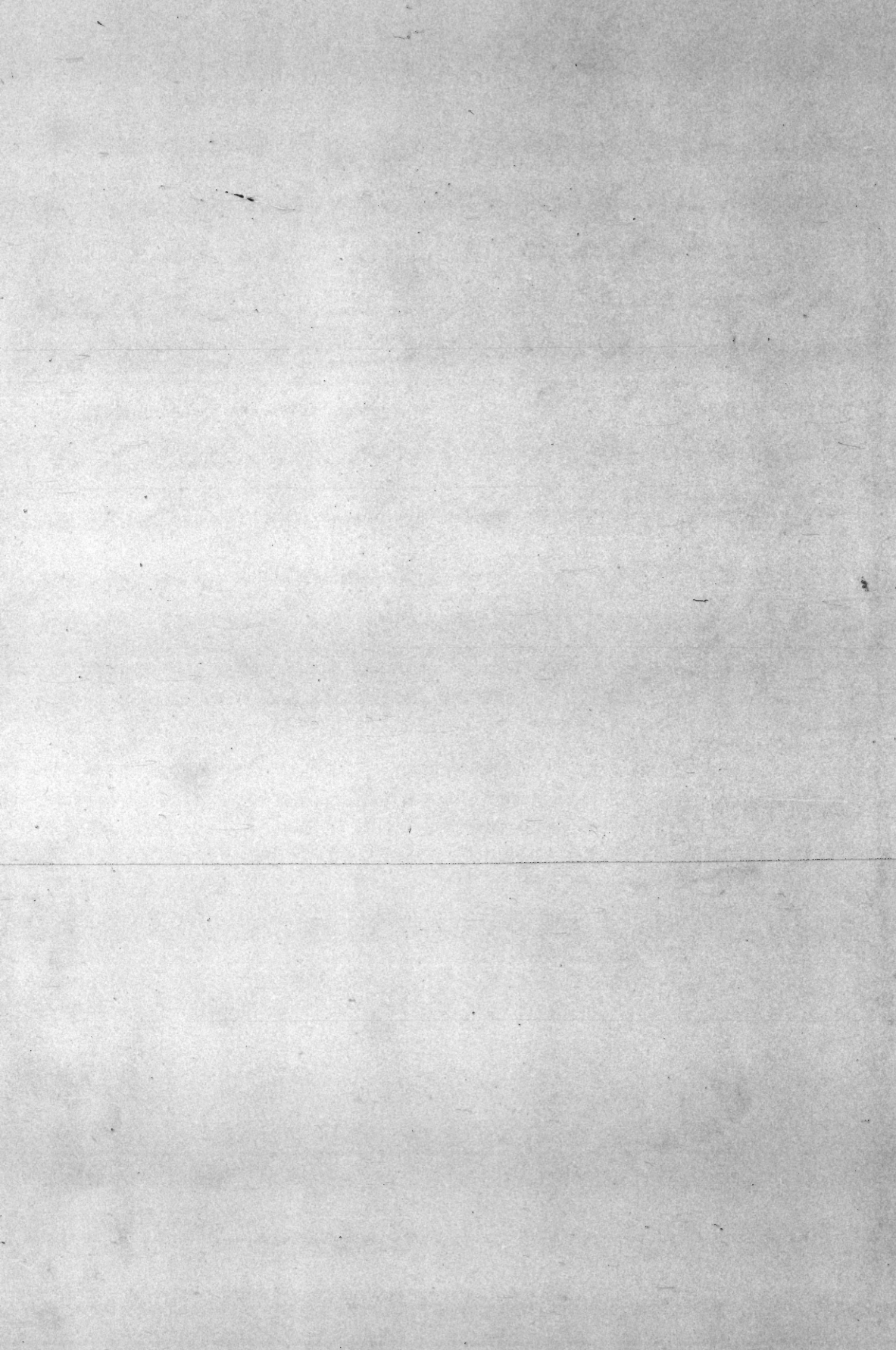
To His Grace the Duke of Devonshire,

Recd. Dec. 9. 1773.

J. W.









Dear friend.

Philadelphia July 30/1777

Mr Van Horn advises me that you would  
be glad to correspond with me while in this Quarter. I wish I had any  
thing to communicate worthy your Attention! Our Journey, though  
tiring, was tolerably agreeable. I found an open Door for Preach<sup>ing</sup>  
through Connecticut beyond all Expectation, & York State affords, and some  
good degree of Attention: But in the Jerseys & Pennsylvania it is  
a most lamentable time - I attended the Genl. Meeting 1 Sabb. in June  
at Middletown - saw our common friend Mr Morgan, with several  
others. He is much broke, & greatly harassed by the Enemy in that  
Quarter, who commit great Depredations on the Jersey Shores - Mr  
Miller is much quickened and I think God is fitting him for something  
great; or rather has done it - Father Miller much discouraged - and  
Newel divided about Mr Fols - In short the State of Religion looks  
gloomy in these Parts - Dissipation prevails - Vice rides triumphant  
the Currency is at a low Ebb: but the Depreciation, for the present  
checked, by the Committee's Efforts, &c - There is no publick News  
of Importance here - The Harvests of the Earth throughout  
my whole Journey vastly plentiful - How good the Lord is!  
To Morrow I am to preach in this City to this poor, divided, & I fear  
ruined Baptist Church - Whigg & Tory runs high here - Mr  
Manning on coming to Town was taken ill & is yet confined -  
I visited Mr Jones in my Way, who, with his Family are well - Hope  
the good work goes on with you; & that you will favour me w:  
particulars by every Opportunity - Give my best Love to the  
Rev. Mr. & Mrs. Smith w:<sup>2</sup> y:<sup>o</sup> & join'd by Mr Manning accept the same  
from

Yours &c

Jones Manning



Rev. J. J. Howard  
Genl. Office  
Genl. & Agents

Rev. Isaac Backus  
In

Middleborough  
Mr. Manning's  
from Philadelphia  
July 3. 1799

Recd. July 25.  
J. B.

Post: paid



Sutton August 1702

The Church of Christ in Sutton in the Baptist Order to the  
Church of Christ in Providence under the pastoral Care of Chas:  
Manning, sendeth Greetings, Beloved Brethren, as we are  
attended here with febrilematal Disorders, a Detail of which we  
cannot here enumerate though we judge is equally scandalous  
to the Cause which you & we profess. If there is any Fellowship  
with the Spirit, or any Bonds of Navy we desire <sup>that</sup> you would seek  
not to find your Elder and one or two gifted Brethren to advise  
with us, that, if possible, Means may be used by the Blessing of  
God, that those publick Scandals may be removed, that now  
subsist amongst us. Mr Bartow has had the Offer of joining to  
us in calling a Council upon a Plan of Mr George Robinsons  
proposing, but refused; but yet says he is willing to appear before  
the Council, and have all Matters laid open, both as to  
his Sentiments and Conduct. The Council is to meet on the last  
Wednesday of this Inst: at 8 OClock at 8 OClock in the Morning  
at the Baptist Meeting House in P. Town. The Churches, first  
to, to get in P. Council are those, viz) Messrs Borkers, Adams,  
Gerris, Horner, Codrings, Ledyts, Lambson's and Robinsons —

A True Copy, Attest

James Manning

The Bearer Mr Waters, means to carry this to you to Morrow. As the  
Time yet is far near the Association would it not be best for this  
Council to be appointed to meet at the Association Time and  
attend it there? requesting Mr Bartow to attend. I did not  
think of this before he left me, but I should he call when some  
other I shall mention it to him. Other wise I cannot possibly  
attend — We are likely to have a Quorum of the Fellowship in  
September, I wish to be sure of one of the Trustees. I beg therefore  
if possible, you would be with us Tuesday Evening Sept: 3. Perhaps you  
can exchange with Mr Lambson, the Lord Day following and not be under



The necessity of going home before the Association. The State of  
the College is really deplorable, and I wish to get as many of the  
Corporation together as possible, to take the best Advice we can  
and put the Institution again in Motion. If not I believe I  
must wholly relinquish it for my present Situation is  
very disagreeable. I hope you will not fail, if you can  
to order matters to be with us. With great Respect I am

Providence Aug. 2. 1782.  
Rev. Isaac Backus

Yours in Gospel Bonds  
James Manning

Mr. Manning's  
letter Aug. 2. 1782.

Recd. Aug. 5.

J. B.

Received by  
Mr. Manning  
for Isaac Backus



Dear Brother,

Providence August 30. 1785

Some days since I rec<sup>d</sup> your most welcome favour, in which you give me the pleasing account of the Lord's work in the eastern country. Oh! land, highly favoured of the Lord! I long to break out of my confinement & go and visit them, but such is the situation that I can hope for but little more than to hear of the glorious works of God abroad, without the pleasure of seeing & joining to assist it forward by my feeble endeavours. The enclosed I just rec<sup>d</sup> in a letter from Eld<sup>r</sup> Mordecai, in which he requests me to forward it to you, & informs me that there are some hopeful appearances, of late amongst them. You have doubtless heard of the good work at Belcher. God appears to display his power there in a remarkable manner, & I trust is about to raise a Chh<sup>ch</sup> of Eld<sup>rs</sup> in that place. The ~~work~~ of the young converts are greatly turned towards baptism, but they have very little assistance from our Ministers. I have been repeatedly solicited to pay them a visit —

I have lately rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Mr Rogers, together with those of Mr Warts, printed Sermons, subscribed for at the last Association, with a request to forward them to our next; but he makes no mention of money for you. I am told he expects to be over next month. The state of our Church is more promising than in times past. Several backsliding members have returned, with an agreeable spirit, & one baptized in one day. There appears a greater disposition to hear of word & attend worship of late. Dr Waterhouse, last Night gave an introductory Lecture to his course on Natural History, & will continue till after Commencement. He is to be inaugurated there. We should be happy in your company at that time. With love to your family & friends I rest

Your Brother in Gospel

James Manning

8/23.

22. Sept. 8.

Aug. 30. 1785

Dr. Manning.

Middleborough

Friend John Barker



Ans<sup>d</sup> Sir,

Taunton March 14<sup>th</sup> 1796

W<sup>th</sup> home yesterday, I meant to have tarried with you last night, but the badness of the travelling, and my business prevented me from seeing you this morning. I am sorry for it, as I wished greatly to have had some conversation with you, on the Subject of my late appointment to represent our State in Congress. Nothing, to me, could have been more unexpected than this appointment; but as the term is only till next November, and the College is greatly interested to obtain compensation for the Rents & damages of the House, which has not yet been obtained. I thought seriously of the matter, & as other Business of importance, to myself, required my presence, in that quarter I concluded to go, as I should be absent from the College Exercises less than three months, upon the proviso that I could get a person to fill my place from June to September. Two meetings of the Corporation were had on this Subject, at the last of which it was unanimously agreed that they would consent to my going, provided I could obtain Rev<sup>d</sup> Perez Tinkles of Plainham to assist in the College, during the Summer Months. This brought me to Plainham, & he has consented. His turn for Experimental Philosophy, and the Assistance we wished the Senior Class to have in that branch, together with his Character & turn recommended him to us. I have no thoughts of commencing a political Character & relinquishing my Office. As I shall absolutely interdict my Name's going into the Press. I wanted much to have consulted you on the Subject of supplying our Pulpit, & to have obtained your Assistance. Should it be convenient for you to visit us before the 10<sup>th</sup> of April I shall be glad to see you on these Subjects.

With Sentiments of Esteem I am &c  
James Manning

Dr. Manning.  
Mar. 14. 1786.

Recd. Mar. 20.

J. D.









Res<sup>d</sup> & dear Sir,

Am gratified by your letter

Yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. is come to hand. Am happy to hear

of your welfare, & that you have been able to visit Providence. I thank you for sympathizing with me in my present situation. My greatest concern is for the Honor & safety of the American Government. I mean, however, to reconcile myself to these prospects as well as I can; and on the consideration of the universality, & peculiar Justice of the Divine Government, I have sufficient reason to acquiesce in all events, conscious of having done my duty. I am with you more & more convinced that some great Revolutions among the Nations of the Earth are fast approaching, in order to usher in a more glorious state of the Redeemers Kingdom. The Lord is doing wonders in New Jersey, especially at the Plains, Piscataway, Bashinnock, Canberry, &c. A more general Awakening, & turning to the Lord than I ever knew in these places. The good work continues in this City & its vicinity. Numbers, daily appear to be adding to the Lord; and great Numbers have been baptized, & I think the work increases. May the Lord fill the whole Earth with His Glory!

Mr. Nott visited us lately, of whom I enquired about your Books. He told me he had very little or no Money. Mr. Gano had sent them as directed, but had not received a Shilling for them, as he informs me. There is, therefore, but little Prospect of getting much from this quarter soon.

With Sentiments of Esteem, with a request of a kind remembrance to Mrs. Backus & Family,

I am

Dear Sir

Your steady friend

J. Manning

Res<sup>d</sup> J. Backus

James Manning

Dr. Manning's letter.  
June 19. 1786.  
Dec. July 7.  
8. 13.



Rev & Dear Sir

Dear Sir

At Philadelphia, in my late tour, I rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr. With-  
ten Dollars to forward to you; but having had no opportunity it lies in my hands ready for your Order, where-  
ever you shall think proper to give them—

The State of Religion in New York & Kentucky  
is still very comfortable, and in several places very powerful,  
especially with our brethren Van Hook, Runyon, Wilson,  
Rans, father & son, with the latter at Nobleton. Your friends,  
except brother Utsch, who was indisposed, are, in that quarter  
generally well. I saw young Mr. Smith of Piscataway & asked him  
respecting your Histories. He said he could pay me them in  
any paper, but no otherwise on this, at New York, I must keep  
in a Dollar. He told me he expected soon to be at New York  
where he would either find it to me, or have it with Mr. Jones.  
I had the pleasure to find my family well, & to enjoy health in  
my journey, as I hope you & yours now do

With sentiments of Esteem

I am, &c

Wm. Isaac Backus

James Manning

Particularly after your recovery of our vast he

Dr. Manning's  
Letter, June 29, 1784.

Dec. Aug. 12. —

L. B.



Dear Sir,

Providence Oct: 21<sup>th</sup> 1787 —

Lord day last returned from New York and have had a most agreeable tour — We had a very agreeable Association, as you will learn by the minutes, which I here with inclose you, together with a Number of Subscriptions, for reprinting D<sup>r</sup> Gill abridged, by D<sup>r</sup> Samuel Jones — This is in the opinion of our western brethren a most desirable work, and I expect will be well executed — We wish that all the Subscriptions which can be had may be had soon, & therefore request your Assistance & Interest in this business.

Sir,

Providence Aug: 22<sup>d</sup> 1787 —

In conversation with Mr Jeremiah Browne a principal member of the Church in Charlestown South Carolina, now here, & likely to be here for upwards of a month before he returns to his Family, he enquired & particularly after your History & said that he cannot find more than one set of them to have found the way to Carolina, where great enquiry, amongst the Baptists, has been long made after the Books. It is his opinion that nearly or quite 50 sets of them would sell there readily, expressed a wish to see you on the subject, withal that he would take upon himself the care of disposing of them & remitting you the money — He is son of James Brown, Brother of Daniel, in Swansea — This house is the resort of <sup>Baptist</sup> Ministers who visit that City, and most of the Society who come there on business. I told him I thought you would be glad to embrace the opportunity & would thankfully accept the tender of his services, & promised him that I would give you a line on this subject.

I am &c.

James Manning

Rev. Isaac Parker

Hon. J. W. Manning  
Middleborough

Rev. Manning's  
Letter Aug. 22. 1787.

Rec. Aug. 26,

J. B.



Dear Sir,

Providence Oct. 31. 1797

Yesterday I returned from New York and have had a most agreeable tour — We had a very agreeable Association, as you will learn by the minutes, which I have with inclose you, together with a Number of Subscriptions, for reprinting D<sup>r</sup> Gill abridged, by D<sup>r</sup> David Jones — This is in the opinion of our western brethren a most desirable work, and I expect will be well executed — We wish that all the Subscriptions which can be had may be had soon, & therefore request your Assistance & Interest in this business. Please to forward, as soon as may be the Minutes & Subscriptions, to which they are directed. I have sent you 1 of the former, & six of the latter over, which you may dispose of as you think best — Please to inform the Subscribers that we will take care to forward their Subscriptions & Money to D<sup>r</sup> Jones, if they send it to my care — It is my request & that of other friends that the Minutes should be read publicly in all the Congregations, not only that the people at large may be acquainted with this design; but that by the notice taken of the new form of the federal Government, recommended by the Convention, our friends in New England may see the remarkable unanimity of our western Brethren in the Adoption of it — It is the general opinion to our friends west that the Sword will soon be again stained with Civil blood, if it is not adopted — Probably your interest may place one, at least in the Convention who may be for it — The Western Presbyterians have been dreaming of an Establishment; & as this will put it out of their power, some of their men in Pennsylvania, are violently opposed to it; & I believe, rarely one of any other Society — Of Mr Smith I recd. 9 Dollars for my History, which I shall forward immediately to Doctor Freeman as directed

Yours  
James McCreary

Reverend Isaac Backus

Middleborough

Dr. Manning.  
Oct. 31. 1784.

Recd. Nov. 11.  
L. 23.









Providence, the 1st of May 1849

Sir

I snatch a moment, by all the means, to advise you that I have  
five Dollars in Cash for you, which I rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr. Crocker, being the money  
from Mr. W. H. C., which I am ready to pay to your order. — The great  
burden of my affairs, when I went to Boston, caused me to forget your  
request to take with me your History to Mr. Boston & Judge Smith, of  
which I am very sorry, as I should have been glad to have brot<sup>ht</sup>  
over the money. — For several weeks, previous to my going, and  
all the time I was gone, & indeed ever since, it has been one  
series of engagements. — The bearer is waiting, or I should have  
been glad to have given you some sketch of my Tour, in  
general appearances, in Religion, are favourable. But I must  
postpone particulars till I can see you, which I hope may be the  
case, if you can make it convenient, that I may have a  
conference. — Please to give my love to Mr. Backus and  
family, to whom as well as to yourself Mr. Manning joins  
with

Dear Sir

Yours affectionately  
James Manning

appears to prevail amongst us.

many to be healed, and some are actually

Wm. A. Barber  
St. Louis

James J. Barber

Dr. Manning,  
Nov. 7. 1891.  
J. A. Barber



Dear Sir,

Providence Dec: 8. 1840

The Package which accompanies this came to hand a few days since from Philadelphia. It has been long in coming, but it is, in my opinion, intrinsically valuable. As I suppose it contains two pieces, similar to those in my Package, three times on Nash's History of the Protectoral House, & pieces on Baynton in answer to Mr. Carter. I add mine the Assent of the author to think him among the first of our writers. I wondered that I had not heard of his fame as a writer before. I am sure you will peruse the pieces with great pleasure —

The Spirit of the Lord appears still at work on the minds of many of the people here. More, perhaps, than at any period during the Revival, are now under serious impressions, and a number have lately found peace. Four were received, and a number have lately been baptized. Perhaps half a dozen more stand ready to embrace the next opportunity. Our meetings, for the season, are full & solemn, and our young brother preaches steadily and to great acceptance to all classes of the congregation, & all occasional hearers. — A spirit of reconciliation appears to prevail amongst us. Several breaches in the Church appear in a fair way to be healed, and some are actually made up. I am not without hope that the long & great difficulty between Mr. John Brown & some of the Society who joined the Abolition Society, is in a way to be got over. Great efforts have been made by us for that purpose, & I hope our labour will not be wholly lost —

Last Friday, in going down the hill, I slipped and fell, and broke & split some of the bones of my left hand, which has given & still gives me great pain, & renders it almost entirely useless. I fear, from the symptoms, I shall for a long time be nearly laid by on account of it; & prevent my intentions of visiting some parts of the Country during the Winter Vacation, & Middleborough among the rest. Our Vacation commences a fortnight sooner than usual on account of the extremity of the season, & scarcity of wood, which is now at 10/8 & 12/11 per load. It is thought 1/3 of the Town are nearly destitute, and the supplies very scanty. I am distressed for the poor — With best respects to you & family, in which Mr. Manning unites I am  
Yours, J. Manning

W.L.W.



John Isaac Barber

Wilmington

Henry  
M. M. M.

Dec. 8. 1901.  
Dec. 10.  
8. 83.





Boston, Dec. 9, 1802.

Rev. Sir,

We have received your Answer to Peter Edwards's book. Mr. Baldwin is writing an Appendix to Dr. Jenkins. We will consult him, as you desire, respecting your manuscript. It is indeed necessary that an antidote to Edwards should circulate. His denomination make every thing of it. One would think, from their zeal to circulate it, Infant Baptism was tottering to its fall, and that Edwards's book was its best possible support. Three thousand copies of it have been diffused in a few months—We hear also that it is just published in Vermont—it is now reprinting in Boston—and proposals are issued to print it in Hartford. We however believe it will do more good than hurt, by bringing the subject into debate. We hope Dr. Jenkins will circulate, as we think it a good answer.

Your respectful, humble servant.

P.S.—Your corrections for the *Register* Manning & Loring did not reach us in season. — Dr. Stillman lately preached in the late Mr. Bodily's meeting-house to a crowded assembly on an evening. The next evening Mr. Spring preached on baptism, and against the Baptists—He said they

I have only time to inform you I have not time to write to you, I have sent you the Minutes of our Affo.<sup>n</sup>

And I shall be glad extremely glad to receive a line from you at any time and am in Royal respects your Affectionate Br

Bw

J Marshall

Grace Beckers

were a flimsy sect— that they must be watched,  
or they would get the ground— and so immoral, that  
they hardly kept the Sabbath. We have that  
twenty-five have joined themselves together as Baptists  
in Newbury-Port— and this may be the reason  
that Mr. Spring is alarmed.

Manning  
Living  
Dec. 1802  
P. S. Dec. 14.  
I. B.



Recd

Franc Butcher

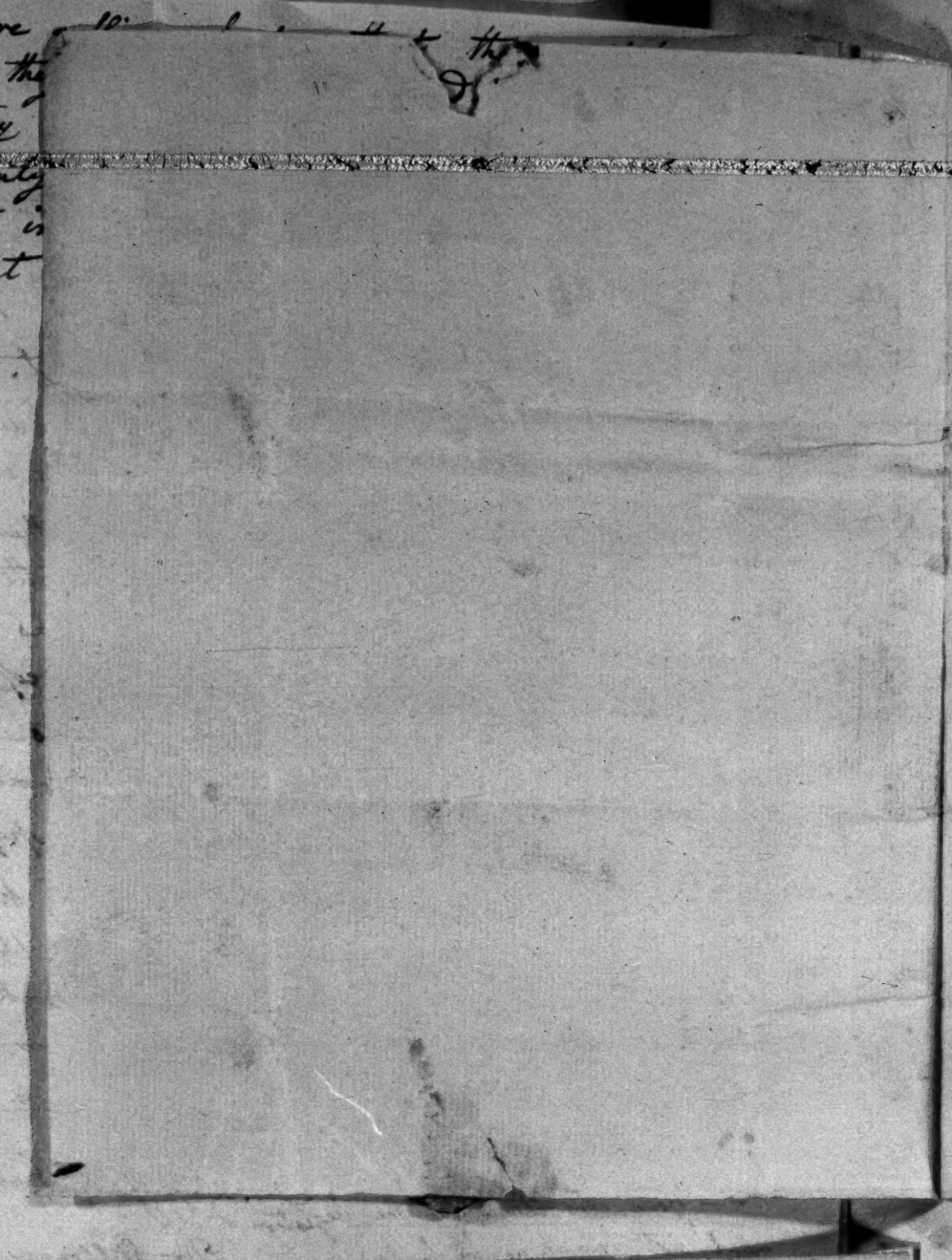
Dr  
Du Maine }

S. S.

Recd Mar. 10. 1999.

8641  
of Georgia.

July 11. 1901.





Rev'd Dear Brother

By Brother Brame came to tell you  
And rejoice that you are so attached to the  
primitive and Apostolick Order. Long, Long, may  
you live to rehearse the Wonders of redeeming  
Love, and Record to rising posterity, what his  
Right Hand hath done

I heartily wish we had an Abel Caneton  
like minded to the South, Some years past we  
made some progress and had collected a few  
Meluals and sent them to Rev John Williams  
of Virginia, but I Expect his Death has put  
a stagnation to it for the present,

I Agree in believing Deform and Infidelity  
Abound more then Ever it did Since the fall  
of Man And that there never was a time when  
the Love needed more Such Canetons if the wrath  
of Men shall man the Lord if Cyano who now  
nort God shall Fight for God Certainly he  
can and is Making Use of them to do all

all his pleasure on the ~~old~~ <sup>old</sup> shore of  
Babylon such from Native ~~Indians~~ <sup>Indians</sup> and  
not calculated to Enliven Kings, & Queens,  
Destroy Tyranny, and Tyranny, and Tumble with  
them to their Native Hell.

I Baptized Eliacum Marshall when  
I was in Connecticut some years ago, and became  
with Joseph, should be glad to hear how he  
is, and what he is doing.

Want of time prevents me from <sup>sending</sup> you  
the Account of of Reliance, My Father's  
Life Death &c, perhaps I shall be able in  
the next.

Garden Place, bad sitting, and  
worse Spelling.

From Dear <sup>my</sup> your unworthy  
Brother and Fellow Labourer in the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Res

Dear Brother,

J. Marshall.









New Sir I Take This opportunity by the same Dear Chap of  
Freetown to inform you of a late transaction in Windsor of  
my Sufferings by the within Copied writings and many more  
I could inform you of the same kind if I had time but the  
Deer, ~~that~~ could not weight many of our baptist friend has  
suffered in name and state since the war and many more as day  
thirteen and it seems a Dreadful Day is coming on if not prevented  
I have by me at Present a Memorial for the General Assembly signed  
by great number of baptist for an Act to release us I had a promise  
of some help in the war that if we would be patient till the  
close of the war we should be released from Sir be pleased to  
order your humble servant for writing to a Gentleman that I never  
saw but that I never saw your Person I have your writing and I have  
for me I present your New Englar History of the Bapt and Abolition  
it has spread the greater light that any one history ever did in new Eng  
I have heard gentlemen say that they thought that they saw it  
in they believed that it was a true history & at the same time declared  
that they were surprised to hear hear <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>condemned</sup> ~~condemned~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>these</sup> ~~these~~ <sup>brethren</sup>  
and protestants of uniformity in religion so early the baptist Religion  
ones created in this state and now Sir I should be exceedingly glad to  
have opportunity to converse with you for I could furnish you with  
a Considerable History of the Baptist Suffering by North Windsor Society  
not only in religious Affairs but in civil matters I leave the within Copied  
your Writings to publish Dated at Windsor the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of May  
1865 From your humble servant Eliakim Mathew

J. B.

Rec. July 29.

May 16. 1785.

Mr. Mathers Letter.

To  
Elder Beckous  
Living In  
Middelbrough



what is well known a mourning upon kindred for those  
 who are oppressed to Deser Liberty from from  
 there oft times proceed for Liberty for Liberty  
 the worth Liberty either civil or sacred or any all  
 or more we enjoy is never better none than by  
 want of it this seems to be of Earnest Deser of human  
 quahableness in of British American Collings that  
 may yet enjoy our civil & religious privileges now we are left  
 or we are shrouded with y<sup>e</sup> loss of them but it is very  
 manifest a cry of this nature is no new thing in  
 ancient Colling in which I see there has bin a cry for moni-  
 erly above this twenty years by those that have  
 sent from of Established worship or constitution  
 well known of people called baptis & those  
 separate that profess to be our Deserers of subjects  
 present majesty engaged with our brethren in a  
 on cause to stand for our Constitutional Rights as  
 charter have bin after it is well known embodied in  
 much state & a minister of the Gospel obliged by of Zion  
 intricate to support of that worship that we  
 not confinably attend upon or else suffer improp-  
 at or confiscation of goods of baptis in England have  
 treated in this manner for a ministers rate of about  
 10 or 10 shillings value have had pound taken from  
 but after they had bin twice to of County Court &  
 10 of general assembly that they obtained an exem-  
 from supporting of ministers settled by Law & now those  
 own to of baptis church or society in England  
 by a tend of public worship of god with them are bound  
 to contribute to support of of standing ministers  
 offer a above no way to be released from it unless  
 they are at that unreasonable cost of going to  
 London & then perhaps not have a hearing of first  
 session & I have bin Distrained for of ministers  
 several times since I have bin settled as a baptis  
 what is hear writing true state of of case  
 of Enfield September 26 1774 Joseph Meacham

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Brother Backus Middleborough Febr 15 -  
 After remembering my Love to you & all friends & Bre  
 with you these are to desire you for to come and visit us  
 soon as you can & preach at Hensery Northings and if you can  
 at the Beach Woods I have wanted to come see you But have  
 been detained by infirmity of body and other circumstances  
 am poorly of it now it is a cold time of relegion amongst us at  
 a time though through the goodness of God we have had som  
 revival of relegion and some conversions among us which I hope  
 will end in a saving conversion no more  
 our friend and Brother in the sweet Jesus  
 James Mead



Elder Meekins  
Letter. Sept. 26. 1774

Recd. Oct. 9. -  
1773.

Elder Beckwith

From Beachwood  
Feb. 15. 1755.

To Mr. Isaac  
Backus in  
Middleborough

James Mead's  
Letter Feb. 15.  
1755

Shy & recd  
Nov. 30. 1764.  
9 73



Lancaster Jan: 12<sup>th</sup> 1771

Dear Sir: having one moment opportunity  
to write to you. I gladly embrace it - we are all  
alive & in most bodyly health: our Religious  
Circumstances in y<sup>e</sup> Chh are more happy than  
a little while ago; our trials since I saw you last  
have been very huge - ~~with~~ we have had y<sup>e</sup> Mor-  
tification to lay 3 of our members under Admoni-  
tion of late - we beg your prayers for us.

Elder Smith of Ashfield was with us last M<sup>o</sup>. & with  
his people are all well y<sup>e</sup> Chh. under a comfortable  
measure of prosperity. - Remember me to  
all enquiring friends - pray for y<sup>e</sup> peace of Zion  
My opportunity to send these lines is by y<sup>e</sup>  
hand of Mr. James Hooper. Mr. Wood was  
here with him.

I Rest your friend &  
Brether - Richard Montague

To Mr. Isaac Backus  
Middleborough

come to N. Salem to y<sup>e</sup> ordination of

Rich<sup>d</sup>. Montague  
letter Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>  
1741

From Sunderland

Jan. 12. 1741.

Tue Jan. 20.

S. B.

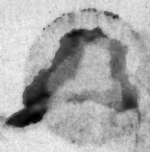
S<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup>

Isaac Backus

Baptist Preacher

in

Middleborough





Providence March 3. 1772

Dear Sir — Providentially being here — and falling  
in Company with one Mr Howard of Bridgewater —  
take this opportunity to write a word to you —  
I went from home on Thursday before last to Newport  
to leave my eldest son — for y<sup>e</sup> recovery of his health  
I have left him in N-port. Mr. Thurston is well &  
all our friends there — The letter we wrote to send  
y<sup>e</sup> Association by Elder Smith of Effingham, he going  
another way it was left — I gave it to Elder Alden  
who told me he would give it to y<sup>e</sup> Baptist Elders & brethren  
— Mr. Hunt's ordination — accordingly I heard by  
Mr. Green y<sup>t</sup> you took y<sup>e</sup> letter. — y<sup>e</sup> Charge  
our Congregation hindered us from coming — and it  
was almost undone us — we being all of us very poor  
people — and y<sup>e</sup> present year it being more distressing  
reason of y<sup>e</sup> scarcity of bread in these parts than  
has been known this many years —  
If you in y<sup>e</sup> course of your travels could collect any  
thing to relieve our present distress as a help to y<sup>e</sup> poor  
baptists in this Jerusalem (viz) y<sup>e</sup> Baptist Chh in  
Montague — and bring it with you when you  
come to N. Salem to y<sup>e</sup> ordination of brother Saml.  
Bigelow — on y<sup>e</sup> 21 of May next — you will do well  
we are still oppressed & distressed — Lately Brother Sawyer  
and a Cow sold at Vendue — Brother Saml. Harvey a  
victim of Steals — Me they took six miles on my way to  
prison kept me under keepers all y<sup>e</sup> after noon & all  
night in y<sup>e</sup> morning dismissed me and went &  
took a Swine I was a feeling for my family.

The friends to our cause, on my journey have  
been very kind and liberal to me in behalf of y<sup>e</sup> Chh  
in whose behalf I ask help of my brethren — The cost  
we have been at amounts to a 100 dollars. Time  
and charge &c — y<sup>e</sup> Chh is comforted  
to what they was, some time ago, — my love to all  
inquiring friends — in y<sup>e</sup> greatest haste I write  
my Name your unworthy brother — Rich<sup>d</sup>. Montague

Elder J. Backus  
Middleborough

To Mr  
Isaac Backus  
in Middlebury

Richard Montague's  
Letter Mar 3. 1792.

Recd. Mar 8.  
I. B.

In a manuscript of his  
written May 5. 1791, after the  
loss of their action he says,  
"I came home (May 3) very heavy,  
having lost but little the  
night before. That night an  
additional trial attacked me,  
viz the death of a disorgan  
of my family. Not a word  
I say to them. I could only faintly  
say, and just faintly believe I  
had in time lost, as the  
Lord to show me a right way  
for my self & for my children,  
and for all my substance  
Not one doubt arising in my  
mind but it was God's will we  
got out in. After speaking to  
my brethren in this, who know  
but God will bring good out of  
this evil, if we don't, we shall quit  
in our day, may be our children  
will, generations yet unborn may  
wonder the Lord for this."

Copied Aug. 26. 1799 J. I. Backus.



Dr Sir Fairfax County Virg April 27. 1797

altho I have not the pleasure of your  
acquaintance your goodness will excuse my  
freedom in addressing a few lines to you by the bearer  
who informs me he intends you a visit before he returns  
his wanderings are to me strange and have and still  
do consider him somewhat deranged - Religion is  
and has been for some time in the most lifeless state  
that I have ever experienced without any hope  
of revival - whether the Lord intends that the  
growth of infidelity shall prevail till all the  
antichristian forms of worship and all the branches  
of the antichristian Church finally fall or whe-  
ther he intends <sup>to</sup> open more wide these sluices of delu-  
sion by withdrawing his influence from his  
Church is what my feeble mind cannot see  
that something of vast moment is struggling  
in the womb of this providence is beyond any

Man nor of Doubt - you may perhaps wish to know.  
who I mean to comprehend in the term branches of the  
antichristian Church and my reason for so concluding  
in this you will perhaps think me greatly contracted  
but it is impossible for me to avoid the conclusion that  
every denomination except the Baptist belong to ~~this~~  
and as the several branches go to make up that Sledge of  
folkshead that have spread so universally over the  
world, either their Doctrines or ordinances or discipline  
go mostly clearly to prove them so - and very often all  
= together. Whether the Baptist do or do not all the  
faithfull part in conforming so much as they ge-  
= nerally do to these defunct heresies is a question  
of great moment - and whether this conformity is from  
the spirit of the world or from the spirit of God  
is not of less importance - and whether this is not  
the very ground of that controversy he now so -  
justly has with his own Church is what I shall



not Worthy to determine — but if your Leisure and  
inclination should serve a few thoughts on that sub-  
-ject would be very acceptable to Dear Sir your  
Affectionate unknown friend and Brother in  
Gospel Labour —

Jeremiah Moore

April 29. 1997.  
Rev. Mr. Moore  
Rox. June 23.  
S. B.

Hyland July 1. 1997.

Dr.

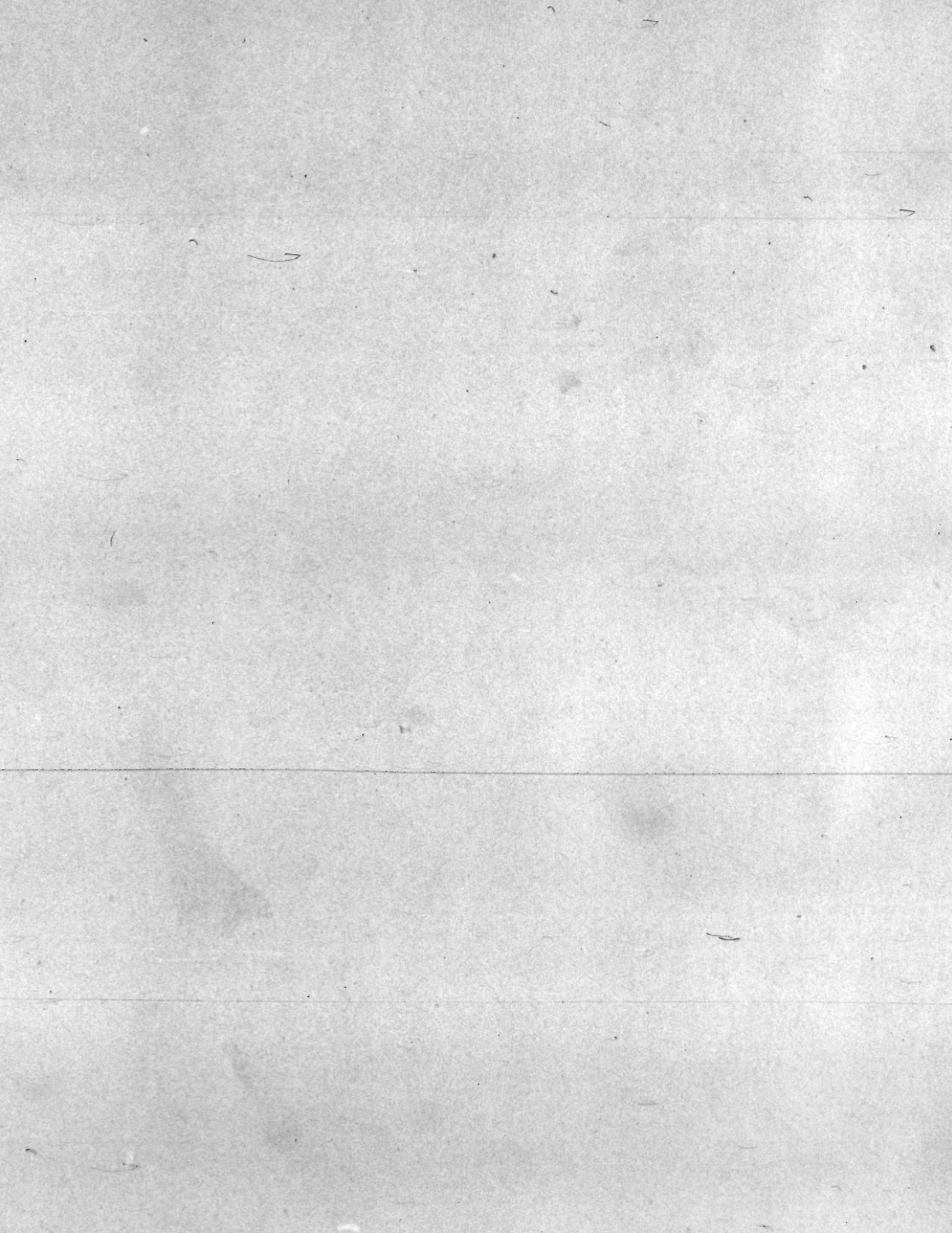
James Backus

Ph. Y. Middlebury -  
Vermont -  
Manchester.

to

Substance









Feb 14 1895

We bedge to inform the brethren in  
massachusetts of our ~~present~~ present happenings  
of religion in Augusta of the Decon of the  
Church in Augusta Elder Jesse Peterson  
belong to W. Galphen this branch of  
his church has in care to the number of  
95 members in the church & we have  
of very great reason to thank god  
for his kind assistance in upholding  
up the church & given us the privilege  
of the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
& we through the land help are still  
the way ~~the~~ <sup>purse</sup> towards heaven this  
Elder of this church 2.14 members  
we bedge the prayers of the church  
massachusetts & our love to you  
this from you all  
loven brethren  
in the land  
W. J. Morrison

To the  
 Messrs. Messrs. Messrs.  
 Messrs. Messrs. Messrs.  
 Messrs. Messrs. Messrs.

Attested Aug. 19. 1796.  
 Attested Aug. 14. 1795.  
 Attested Aug. 18. 1793.  
 Attested Aug. 18. 1793.

Negro.



*M. Pleasant Aug 7 1904*

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Durham Aprill of 27<sup>th</sup> 1752

S<sup>r</sup> this is to acquaint you that I have not as  
yet procured that Money for you but  
am in Expectation of it in a short time  
which if I should will Endeavor to acquaint  
you with y<sup>e</sup> same and if you in y<sup>e</sup> mean  
time should meet with it should be glad you  
would let me know it as sure as you have  
a opportunity I suppose you are acquainted  
with Mr Dane and Mr Stevens being hear-  
sence your self sense which some difficulty  
has arose betwixt Mr Samborn and y<sup>e</sup> Church  
which I suppose Mr Samborn has acquainted  
you with and as to my self notwithstanding  
standing y<sup>e</sup> many means y<sup>e</sup> meekness  
God has ben vying with me I remain  
such a creature as I was when you left me  
and therefore I request your prayer for  
me and y<sup>e</sup> Prayer of your Church that God  
would vouch appear for my Help and  
Preservance my Wife also requests your  
prayer for her she being under Indisposition  
of Body I am S<sup>r</sup> yours to serve

W. Odiorne

Since y<sup>e</sup> finishing this Letter it is Requested  
by many meekness that I should send y<sup>e</sup>  
particulars of Mr Samborn's Conduct to  
Wards of Church which is as foloweth  
y<sup>e</sup> Day Mr Dane left this place Mr  
Samborn made an attempt to deadeat  
his Children in a way of Baptism  
y<sup>e</sup> most of y<sup>e</sup> Church being present  
but Mr Dane Refusing to administer  
the same declaring that he had no  
fellowship with him as likewise y<sup>e</sup> Church  
that was present Did y<sup>e</sup> same  
turn Over.

x William



What upon Mr Lamborn of next Sabbath requested  
a Conference meeting which was granted where  
Mr Lamborn charged y<sup>e</sup> Church with covering  
up Siquity in not being willing to open ly<sup>e</sup>,  
acknowledg<sup>ing</sup> their Errors not with Standing  
Mr Pin before he left this place at a  
Conference meeting held at y<sup>e</sup> Request of  
Mr Lamborn did examon y<sup>e</sup> Church in to y<sup>e</sup>  
things Mr Lamborn had a gainst them wherein  
they professed to bewiling to have any Satisfaction  
by acknowlegment if any there were Dissatisfied  
Said after Mr Lamborn requested another  
meeting which they Refused to grant where  
upon y<sup>e</sup> next Sabbath day Mr Lamborn after  
confessing his weakness in ofring to joyn with  
them did Renounce fellowship with them Declaring  
that God had Requited them for their wicked  
Disobedience in Requesting of him y<sup>e</sup> Sabbath day  
Saying after Mr Lamborn Refused to let his Sister  
Doreas Continue in his house charging her with  
having that Spirit that would shed y<sup>e</sup> blood  
of y<sup>e</sup> prophets and asking of her whether she  
came to persecute him or any of his family  
I have just hinted sum of y<sup>e</sup> Defalty arose  
Sene Mr Kane was hear by reason of y<sup>e</sup> Short  
Warning I had of Nighting Mary Mehay  
hears her love to you and wife and request  
your prayers for her.

For Wm. Cairns  
Collected April 27  
1752.

From Durham April 27<sup>th</sup>  
1752.

Middlebury

Mr. Jacob Backus

To

This I  
Received on  
May 13<sup>th</sup>.

J. Backus



M. Pleasant Aug 7 1874

Dear Father in the Ministry

I am happy to hear you life is  
spared & health & faculties so far con-  
tinued as to admit of your writing.  
Yours of the 3<sup>d</sup> of April last is now  
before me. It was a long while coming.

My cares & labours are <sup>almost</sup> beyond measure  
arduous I have matter of 15 or 20 poor-  
ers. Assistants & all constantly in  
my family sometimes 70 or 80  
students in my Academy & the whole  
of the Ministerial cares & labours of this  
church & people to attend to All these  
together serve to confirm me con-  
stantly to this place & employ all my  
time. This I must offer as an apology  
for neglecting the subject of your

letter so long. I shall humbly send  
you 1 of the Minutes of our N York  
~~Association~~ <sup>for others I have not</sup>  
been able to obtain any to send you  
Had you sent me a subscription  
paper for I have no doubt I could  
have obtained a number of subscribers  
at the session of our last Association  
I now to venture I will subscribe  
for 10 dozen I request you to pass  
them on to the care of <sup>Jeremiah</sup> Bro Chaplin  
No 21 living Gold Street New York

This goes by Bro David Benedict  
A pious youth who ~~is~~ has ~~long~~  
been a good scholar & a ~~Assistant~~  
with me in this Academy for  
several years past & has lately been  
licensed to preach by the Baptists.



Church in Stratfield Connecticut  
State of which he is a member.

His character as a Man a Christian  
a Scholar & a Minister is unspotted  
& his fair to be eminently useful.

Last year there was a happy revival  
of religion here & considerable numbers  
added by Baptism but it appears to  
be pretty much over & present.

There appears however a good degree  
of harmony & steadfastness in the  
in the faith & fellowship of the  
Gospel. I am Dear Sir more

than ever your affectionate friend  
& unworthy Bro. in Gospel  
Bonds — Stephen S. Nelson

Elder Isaac Parker

Stephen J. Nelson,  
Aug. 7. 1804.

Recd. Aug 30 —  
9. 13.

Wm. Isaac Blackwell

Wm. Isaac Blackwell

Reference to  
David Brinckley



Sept. 20 1872  
Ed. Backus Sir This Evening after I saw you at  
of Mr. Peirce I saw Ed. & Hinds & he has for some Regions  
Concluded not to go his journey till the week after next his wife being  
So unwell & Mr. John Pickens will be his Company if he stays another  
week so he concludes Return home from Providence & he will be at  
home the Sabbath after Next & the Sabbath after that I Expect by the  
of Divine Providence to be at Bridgewater the Sabbath after that if  
you & I Live so long you would Come & would send & by the means  
that it might be mentioned Sabbath after Next if would be agreeable  
to our people & if your people would Except of such a Child as I  
am I would ~~send~~ according to the measure of Grace given to me  
Supply them

O my father my father the Charlots of Israel & the house men  
themselves Pray for me that I may be kept by the Power of God through  
faith unto Salvation

Samuel Nelson

Sam. Nelson's  
letter, Sept. 20, 1782.

224

W. G.

Recd. 2<sup>d</sup> Isaac Barker

Q

in  
Huddellbrough



Boston July 28<sup>th</sup> 1793

Dear Sir.

As I have but a moment's opportunity, I can only just inform you, that I expect to attend the Association in Bridgewater, & should be very happy to serve the church, as one of their delegates; if agreeable to them.

It is yet a time of great ediness & declension every where, but we have happy news from the north and westward. In the Towns of Hopkinton & Hanover in the State of New Hampshire, we say the Lord is carrying on a powerful reformation, & that the work may spread throughout the north, is the fervent prayer, of your sincere friend  
~~humble servant~~ unworthy brother Stephen Dole

Mr. Walden's Daughter is yet very weak,  
died, but there yet remains a little glimmer of hope  
of her recovery. He & Dr. Stillman wish  
their best regards to you.

I left Middleborough so sudden that I was  
obliged to leave the Book I borrowed of you &  
the money for the Register with my parents  
& request them to send them on to you the  
first opportunity.

Stephen Welch.  
July 28. 1790.  
Recd Aug. 6.  
9.13.



~~Middlebough Apologies~~

Whereas a mutual council of four churches met with the Second Baptist Church in Middlebough Sept. 28. 1784, and judged elder Hinds to have been faulty in three articles, and advised him to offer satisfaction to the church therefore, and he attempted something of that nature at a meeting on Oct. 8, but it appeared to seven of the brethren that his confession was not equal to his offence, of whom brother Samuel Nelson was one, at another meeting Dec. 1, the <sup>elders</sup> and six more censured said Nelson as a transgressor for not receiving said confession, therefore the agreed called a council of four churches on March 15. 1785, who unanimously judged that censure to be unjust, and advised the agreed to apply to their church for a rehearing, and if <sup>aid</sup> was not obtained thereby to make application to some sister church, & advised the church to receive them; therefore, after trying that method and not being relieved, <sup>aid</sup> brother Samuel Nelson on April 17. 1785 laid his case before the first Baptist Church

Mr. M. M. D. is not yet  
died, but there yet remains a little glimmer of hope  
of her recovery. He & Dr. Stillman wish  
their best regards to you.

I left Middleborough so sudden that I was  
obliged to leave the book I borrowed of you &  
the money for the Register with my parents  
& request them to send them on to you the  
first opportunity.

Stephen Nelson  
July 28. 1790  
Dec. 1 Aug. 6.  
9.13.

21  
can never have enough; the wicked are  
like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest.  
Isaiah LVI. 10, 11. LVII. 20. ~~Isaiah~~ The  
church of God, even under the legal  
dispensation, had rest on every seventh  
day, seventh month, and seventh year;  
and under the gospel the church rests  
on the first day of the week; and  
believers find great spiritual rest,  
under Christ's yoke which is easy, &  
his burden which is light. But search  
through the world, and it will be found  
that no men who support teachers  
by secular force have any true rest,  
be they in units, tens, or hundreds.  
They all draw circular lines, and  
cannot be easy to have a man within  
those limits, who does not receive an  
open or secret mark of subjection to  
such power.

Stephen Nelson  
April 14. 1788

Letter Sept. 20. 1788

Middleborough



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Altho I the Subscriber was not an Eye witness  
and cannot assert to the truth of those particular  
Transactions as published in powers & Willis, Gazette  
of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Octob<sup>r</sup> last signed Isaac Bausher in regard  
to the Conduct of the Inhabitants of the town of Peppert  
on June 25<sup>th</sup> last in their Opposition to a number of  
Baptists collected in that place &c. &c. I can testify  
on oath to the following Facts Viz: that a Number  
of those who came to the River Side just as Sermon was  
begun ~~there~~ were armed with poles and other weapons  
& Lt. Col. Woods was present with them & the named of some  
Others of those mentioned in said Mr. Bausher's piece  
I understood them by enquiry. and that a number of those  
Leading men forbid Breaching or Baptizing in  
Peppert &c. and ordered us to depart; & Cornet Gifford  
threatened to see who was the Strongest Party. I advised them  
at the time as published but more fully were repaid  
by D<sup>r</sup> Lawrence the Opposers followed us & behaved very  
Indicently in time of washing; after the service of washing  
was ended; a large number stood near at hand  
& manifested such spirit & envy that threatened  
Violence if we proceeded to Baptize that I told our  
friends that we could not decently proceed in that  
place at that time; & while consulting duty  
those men as mentioned in D<sup>r</sup> piece came into  
the House & declared that they came in the belief



of the Majority of the Town or to that import  
of the other consideration raised as is in piece relat-  
ed & much <sup>more</sup>. I never heard Col. Woods offer to  
protest us on any condition, but advised us to  
depart out of town immediately for our own safety  
after which we improved an opportunity of  
resorting to a certain water apart from the  
disturbances of our peace where I devoutly Bap-  
tized six persons, but returning from there  
we were met by Col. Woods & a number of his ad-  
herents who appeared to be greatly stimulated  
with passion & resentment, they pelted by one  
being in the front, but soon meeting with  
Mr. Saml. Fletcher I heard the lashing of their  
whips & threatening uttered ~~to~~ such a  
high degree that a person at hand manifest-  
ed with great concern an apprehension that  
violence was really offered to Mr. Fletcher.  
We came to Mr. Shuttlesworth's House. Our  
Opposers followed & remained near by the House  
for some time & then departed without further without

Isaiah Parker  
Harvard Nov 17 1818

Dear Sir I send you herewith enclosed a letter I recd

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Harvard June 28. 1784

Dear Sir I send you here enclosed a letter I received  
from Isaac Holsden, to give you an account of  
the Death of Ireland. ~~but~~ he has not mentioned  
year ~~to the~~ but he died in 1778.  
regard to religion among us, we have nothing  
remarkable; but much agreed in sentiments &  
should be very glad to see you, friend are generally  
well, my love to your wife family & friends  
Yours sincerely Isaiah Parker

by  
The woman mentioned in Holsden's letter, you are  
to understand the widow Lucy that Ireland had took.  
Holsden was with Ireland in sentiments and after, the  
hathens came join'd them - but since has left them, and  
joyfully brought into the liberty of J. G. and has  
been baptiz'd

J. Parker's, Collector  
June 28. 1784.

Recd. Aug. 26.

L. 23.

To Rev.

Isaac Backus

Middleborough



Sir

Rehoboth July 27 - 1771

Solomon saith proverbs 9<sup>th</sup> 10 - hear Counsel and receive instruction that  
thou mayst be wise in thy latter end there are many devices in a many heart never  
= theless the Counsel of the Lord that shall stand the Desire of a man is his kind  
= ness and a poor man is better then a lyar & Received a letter from you Dated  
July 17 - 1771 with this Reflection the Liges of an Enemy are Desultfull which I  
take notis your writings are verry full of you know that the Last time I saw  
you I mis understood you as you said altho many worthy men understood you as I did  
then I was easiey with you as to an understanding and you told the many names that told you Cannady  
with two bucklers and one of them was named pearce passed Bristol ferry in february Last then I asked  
you to go with me to these men you said your horse was a hired horse then I offered you my horse and to  
bare your expence but you refused a Doctor whealer offered to go with me if I would offer him  
the same - I thought he was as able to bare his expence as I was so he not go - now are  
these the Liges of an enemy because I went - the next thing is a letter sent to your Church  
you cite a text Timothy V - 19 pray Reede the next verce them that sin openly Rebuke before all  
if the Church Can pass by that Letter and take no notis of it that is upon their parte - the  
next thing is you have bin to Gudge free man and you say you Learn by him that I sited <sup>him</sup> otherwise  
then you told me that I donot believe - you say the Gudge is not certain he fixed any date  
atall to what he told you that I will refer to his oath but if he didnot how Came you to bin one  
to me the next thing is a man that went to my turner in the winter you say tel of a later date then  
the now sate Squier iniller told me he see that man when he was coming home and the man told him  
said Cannady had been gone five weeks then - now compute my turners date and see how yours will prove  
The next thing is misters Commensory memory this is to distrey a matter already proved and Cast a scandal  
upon the honorable Gudge which I told you your writings are verry full of  
the next thing is you signify a fear of my troubling you in the Law you Reade the Law was made  
for the Lawless and disobedient and so on Reade at your leasure  
The next thing is your repentance or herty sorrow is it because you have troubled me and my house  
or because you are afraid of Loosing Reputation The Last thing is you say you have a clear  
Conscience before God that what you have done was not from any intent to trouble me or mine  
but that the ~~truth~~ might come to light - now if a many baring witness himself will do  
you will come out clear but that is only your say - but the way to bring truth to light  
is to keep to truth now pray Consider your Conduck and see whither your works are the works  
of a minister of Christ Jesus who allways went about doing good do you think that  
he whose penetrating beholds all things will justify this your Conduck if so your Conscience  
may be clear - now Mr Backus I think your best way is to come and settle this  
affair before I proceed any further

Nathan Pearson

For David  
Martin's neighbors  
to me Mar. 20 1792.  
That this letter is  
his hand writing.  
B.

To Mr. Isaac Backus in  
Windsor with care

From Eben Pearce  
July 24. 1791. Recd. Aug. 8. 1791.  
B.

Order Pearce's  
letter July 27. 1791



To the Church of Christ in Middelbrook  
 Under the pastoral Care of Isaac Backus Elder  
 These Lines are to inform you that  
 That Report that D<sup>r</sup> Elder Backus Reported  
 in the town of Rehoboth Which imposed the people  
 is not true as can be made to appear by a tested <sup>man</sup> guide  
 from under the hands of the men that D<sup>r</sup>. Backus  
 named ~~off~~ — — — — —  
 And I desire you as a Christian Church  
 To inspect into it and if you will appoint a Church  
 Agent and send to me I will com or send the <sup>man</sup> guide  
 to you or a copy of them so that iniquity may be  
 purged out of the midst of God — — —

Rehoboth May 4<sup>th</sup> day 1771

Nathan Pearce Elder  
 of a Capt<sup>s</sup> Church in  
 Rehoboth

I have rec<sup>d</sup>. Phillips and hee from  
 supplying discourse with her on  
 July 30, 31. 1761.

J. 73-



Recd. Aug. 26.  
S. D. 3.

20 8.60.1.141  
1791. Recd. Aug. 8.

For the reason why I write to you is Because  
I think you have had large experience  
in this Cause

I am much dissatisfied about my Baptism  
the mode I like but the administrator I know  
was not right for God was displeased and  
my soul bereaved of God and yet I cannot for  
how I can go into the water again and get  
feet as if I could not rest until I have

and now my question is what shall I do in  
this Cause and if you have any answer from  
the Lord I desire to hear it

I desire your prayers for me a poor  
unworthy creature but by the grace  
of God I subscribe my self a lover  
of the Truth  
many perhaps

Norton July 1791

Mr  
Deacon Shaw Belonging  
To Elder Beckuses Church  
in Middlebrook  
this with Care and Speal

From Rehoboth  
May 18. 1791  
Recd. May 20.

Dear's Aug.  
to our Church.  
May 18. 1791



June 28. 1784.

Recd. Aug. 26.

J. B.

Mary Philips  
Letter July 1761

Recd. July 18. -  
J. B.

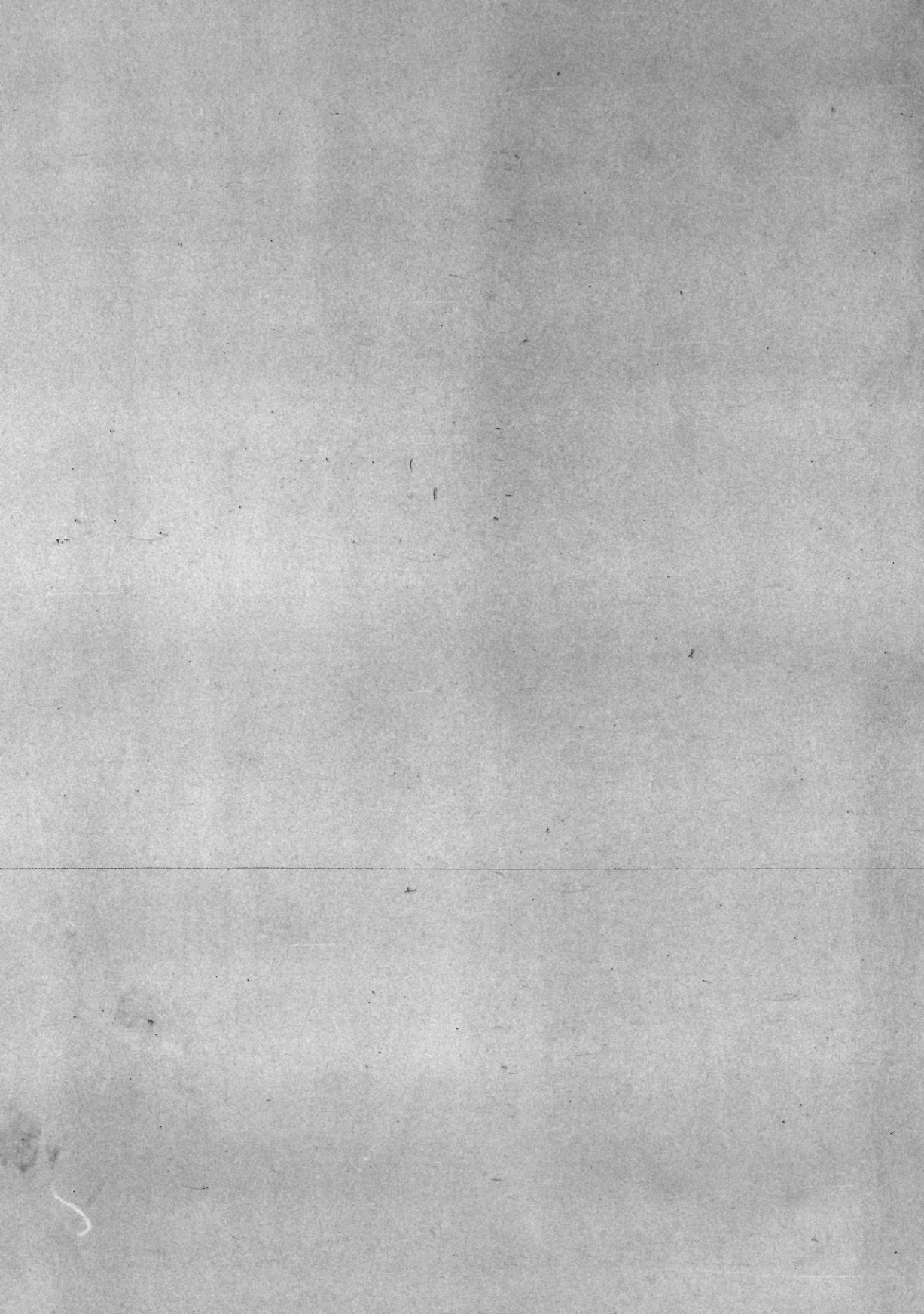
To Mr  
Locke Brother of  
the Post in  
New Middleborough  
From Norton July  
1761

Pearce's Aug.  
to our church.  
May 18. 1741

Mr  
Deacon Shaw Belonging  
To Elder Beckuses Church  
in Middleborough  
this with Care and Speed

From Rehoboth  
May 18. 1741  
Recd. May 20.

1741. Recd. Aug. 26.  
J. B.





N. Bedford Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> 1789

Respected Sir,

~~The enclosed paper~~ ~~is a rare find~~ ~~from~~  
the Southward, belonging to this place I think more  
than two months ago — Now one of the men who  
belonged to her bro't this to me and enquired whether  
I knew the Person to whom it is directed — and if  
I could forward it — which I readily undertook.

I desire your Prayers, that I may be enabled  
to fight the fight of Faith — to run and not be weary  
and to wait and faint in the Christian race, which  
is in ~~some~~ with many Hindrances & Discouragements.

Sir your sincere friend and unworthy  
brother (I hope) in Christ

John Pickens

Elder Packus

P.S. Should you happen  
to pass near this way, I shall  
take it as a favour if you call  
upon me — J. P.

My wish to oblige is sincere

John Perkins,  
Aug. 11. 1789.  
Recd. Sept. 19.  
J. B.

Rev. Mr. Isaac Backus  
Middleboro'



Rev. & Father

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 1797

As Bro. Braine has it in Contem-  
-ptation to travel through the Northern States & expect  
To call on you, have concluded to write you a few lines,  
Not to show you my wisdom, for I have but little, neither  
because I think myself your equal for I am far inferior  
To thee, but because I love you and esteem you as a good  
Old Father in Israel. Altho, I have no personal acquaintance  
With you, yet from information your Name & Character  
is tolerable well known to me, which fills me with  
some Anxiety of mind to ~~lengthen~~ enlarge our acquai-  
ntances by keeping up a little Correspondence with each other  
Provided my respectable Elders can condescend to a man  
Of my weak abilities. Religion is rather at a low ebb  
With us, and I suppose it to be generally the case, at  
least as far as I can hear, Iniquity greatly abounds  
(And the love of many hath waxen cold, so that the times  
Are truly lamentable, Nevertheless an Apostle  
hath said all things shall work together for good to  
them that love God, to them who are called according  
To his purpose, it appears to be at times the Lord is  
Proving of Israel, and sifting & purging his Churches  
That those plants which our heavenly Father hath  
Not planted may be rooted up. the Churches  
With us (Wm. the Roanoke District) at present ap-  
pear peaceable & loving, we have been somewhat  
divided respecting of <sup>Doctr</sup> Calvinism & Arminia-  
-nism, but the latter is losing ground fast &  
I hope will meet with its just deserts, which  
I think is death. Of the Lord one impression  
It on your mind to visit Virginia & that he may  
Put it into your heart to do so once more and come  
into the Roanoke District where you will see a

Aug. 11. 1789.

Number of Ministers & Churches, May the Lord  
Bless the my old Father and make the a Father of  
Hundred nay of thousands which is the sincere  
Desire of yours in best of loves

Newton Pickell



Tuesday Morning Providence July 29. 1791

Dear Friend & Brother

I have the painfull task to inform you of the Death of ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~friend~~ <sup>friend</sup> ~~Brother~~ <sup>Brother</sup> Manning he died this Morning about 4 O'clock His funeral will be attended Saturday 5 O'clock P.M. Mrs Manning requested me to inform you, as she would be glad to have you present if consistent with other engagements you can attend. Mr Moses Brown & others judge it necessary for as many of the Corporation as can possibly be there to attend as something must be done respecting Commencement, if therefore you cannot attend the funeral we hope you will be here as early next week as possible. My Family are unwell 4 Children in the whooping Cough & Mrs Pittman a bad cold.

I hope you & yours are favoured with health may God make us usefull, if we be willing to do with all our might what we find to do, knowing the might cometh when none can work. in haste from your

Friend & Brother John Pitman

John Pitman, 3, acc.

of Dr. Manning's debt.

July 29. 1791.

Rec. the same day.

Jan. 27. 1797.

Received July 11. 1797.



Brother

Louis County Virginia April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1797

It is with much diffidence I take Up my pen to write to a Minister of the Gospel of Your Age and experience, especially when I consider myself an entire stranger to You, without, Recommendations of any kind ~~should~~<sup>to</sup> make me acceptable to you. Yet notwithstanding having been informed of Your Regard for the Cause of God, and the Advancement of the Redeem'd Glory, I hope your Will pardon my forwardness, and fully accept of this as a token and proof, of my love to you as a lover of Christ and his Church.

Tho' Unknown to you personally - Yet I trust Spiritually, we shall be found kindred spirits in the World to come. I have had but a short pilgrimage as yet - but short as it has been, I have not found it strew'd with flowers - but on the contrary have found it a thorny Road - Nothing but the precious, free, unmingled Grace of God, could have saved a Wretch like me, and to his Grace I am daily indebted for my Support, and deliverance from trouble. The Cause of God has been near my heart ever since I knew by experience the power of his love - the Redeemer's Righteousness the theme of my songs - all my Comforts I trust I receive from the Father of Mercies - through Jesus Christ the Lord, Applied to my Soul by the power of the Holy Ghost, - this raises emotions of Supreme Love and Affection in my Soul, to God the Only Worthy Object of either; and this makes me Love his People, and desire their happiness for which reason, I love to obtain the advice of Aged Fathers in the Gospel of Christ, who had experience, of the best means leading to that end, Pardon me Aged and Venerable Father in the Gospel - for asking of you, a letter of Advice on the discipline of Church Associations; and whether you have thought of the necessity of publishing a History of the Rise and progress of the United Baptists in America; I am Dear Brother this is a great request to make, especially when I

Consider my Unworthiness;— With respect to the state of  
religion, we <sup>have</sup> reason to lament the deadness of the Churches  
for iniquity abounds, and the love of many waxes  
cold. Oh, for, if my heart could be suitably affected— I  
have reason with Jeremiah the Lord's prophet, to say  
'for Hurt of the daughters of my People am I hurt—'  
But One Consolation remains— The foundation of God  
standeth sure having this seal, for the Lord know-  
eth them that are his; in such times as these the  
Unchangeable Love of God, supports me; knowing  
that Whom he loves he loves to the end; The Presence  
of God is my Meat and drink, if God had not promised  
to hear prayer, I should not venture to approach to a  
Mercy seat, but knowing that the Lord Jesus came  
into the world to save sinners. When I feel myself  
a sinner, guilty and helpless, I am emboldened thro'  
grace to trust a Savior; Under these impressions  
I humbly ask an interest in your prayers at a Throne  
of Grace; Not for me only but the Churches in  
general— not forgetting the poor Slaves, who are  
groaning under grievous oppression in this part  
of the Lord's Vineyard, I have been an advocate for  
Slavery, but thanks be to God, My Eyes have been  
opened to see the impropriety of it, and I long for  
the happy time to come, when the Church of Christ  
shall lose the Bands of Wickedness, Undo the Heavy  
burdens, and let the Oppressed go free, that her  
light may spring forth as the Morning— and her  
Righteousness go before her— Any Communications of  
this Nature will be thankfully received— Should my  
requests meet with your attention— Brother Brainerd  
who is kind to be the bearer of this letter, will receive one  
in return for me, I hope our Dear Brother will be  
kindly received amongst the Churches and that they  
will love him for his Works Sake—



Must now Come to a Conclusion - and beg leave  
the Unworthy, to subscribe myself your Brother  
in Christ & servant in the Gospel -  
John Poinexter Jr. -

John Poindeux Jr.

Elmer Deane Backus

State of Massachusetts  
Town of Middleburg

By W. William Adams  
a Justice of the Peace in the above

John Poindeux  
April 3. 1894.

Answered July 8. 1894.









Dear Brother having some accounts of the grace  
of god in you by Brother Mr. comber and a <sup>page</sup> 93  
of your Inditing I trust directed by the Holy  
Spirit which is shewing the nature and necessity  
of an Internal Call and finding myself by the  
grace of god through the purchase of Jesus Christ  
and by the application of his holy <sup>spirit</sup> brought out  
of darkness into Gods marvelous light and finding  
in me a desire for the ~~perfect~~ freedom and prosperity  
of Zion and finding grate comfort in a near communion  
and open freedom with the children of god I intend  
to give you some account of gods dealings with my soul  
I was born in the Eastward ~~and~~ in y year 1734 and Brought  
up in Topham in the County of Lincoln where  
there was something of the form of Religion but little  
of the power. I was about nine years of age when  
the Lord wrought wonders in whel field and others  
in this Land for the Building up of his dear sons  
Kingdom which caused the Instrument of anticrist  
me to cry out one thing and another <sup>another</sup> yet in general agree  
to condemn the glorious work although it did not  
come among us which also alarmed me and moved me to  
hear with great attention and heaping the greater  
part of the people speak verily maliciously against  
the work at this time the Spirit of god making some  
impressions on my mind put me to seek to god in secret  
that he would keep me from Error and delusion and  
from having an Erroneous opinion of the scriptures  
I was then convinced that neither my self nor those men  
which speake with so much spite and malice were the  
children of god and I was Rationally convinced that them  
they speak against were the children of god although  
they called <sup>themselves</sup> deluded & possessed of the devil high places and new  
lights and although they speake it as a scandal yet  
believe I must know that Light or perish in  
darkness and still retained a selfish or legal Love  
to those people though never so much displeased  
and from this time untill I was ~~twenty~~ <sup>twenty six</sup> years of age  
the Spirit of god was striving with me by awaking  
my conscience and convincing me of sin and that  
I must Be Born again and so I went on sinning and

Upwards of sixty Members as near as I can remember  
have been added  
January 1798, About the year 1794. I was called to preach to a people

asking was to go Back and to go Back was to go to  
and for about a quarter <sup>an hour</sup> my thoughts flew But could  
hold of nothing and at last It came Into my mind to seek  
help from god which I Indevoured to do as I set at a table  
In my house and the Book Before <sup>me</sup> I Prayed that god would  
Inlighten my understanding and Lead me Into the <sup>spiritual</sup> truths of what I Read and so taking the Book  
and began to Read and this Book shewing <sup>every</sup> thing  
the striving of gods spirit with man and the many ways  
take to Resist and grieve that holy spirit and It  
came to me as nathan said to david thou art the  
and glory be to god now he Let me see my sandy  
foundation was shaken and my fig leaf Rightly  
Rent to Peaces now god sent Light Into my heart  
which discovered In me the Image and nature of  
satan a carnal mind filled with Enmity <sup>against</sup>  
god and now I saw myself standing as It were with  
drawn sword fighting against the Love of god and  
a dagger Pointed to my own soul to strike the final  
ing Blow But glory be to god I saw I could not hurt  
him and In Love he had Restrained <sup>me</sup> from destroying  
myself and now my weapons dropt But O the shame  
guilt and Confusion of face I felt now I saw  
Broken Gods holy Law and stood Condemned By Justice  
and found my self speechless and wondering that god  
suffered me to be out of hell and for the <sup>space of</sup> three hours  
had but little hope of deliverance But after this  
seemed to be a voice In me which followed me  
I went out and when I came In saying Cry mightily  
to god for he is mighty to save which voice  
followed <sup>me</sup> untill I was delivered and now I Prayed  
Cryed But It went away like smoke Before a  
wind and now I saw that the Rage of men and devils  
could not destroy my soul neither could the Righteousness  
of men and angels help me But glory be to god  
he gave me that view of the Lord Jesus Christ that  
In him all things were now Redey and I believed  
that It was the spirit of god that was now drawing  
But O I saw such a nature In me that at times  
feared I never <sup>would be</sup> willing to Receive <sup>the</sup> Christ



Dear Elder, Backus,

State of Virginia, Louisa County. Apr. 6.

repenting Reforming and forgetting <sup>ing</sup> Look upon God to be  
such a god as I would have him to be In hopes for  
that good was In me he would shew mercy to me  
till when I was about twenty six years of age and my  
passions much set upon the things of this world and  
about the time I was to be married to her that is, my  
sister, Christ having then but little concern about  
mercy god or my own soul when all of a sudden I was  
laid down with sickness and part of my <sup>tiny</sup> deprived of reason  
and them that saw me dispaired of my recovery But glory  
to god for he dealt not with me according to my deserts  
but according to his Rich Love and free grace In Jesus  
Christ for he enlightened my understanding and awakened  
my conscience and set my sins In order before me and  
then that which I had forgotten came all to my memory  
with the breach of many vows and promises which grieved  
my heart as I thought & I cried to god to forgive me  
and shew mercy for Christ sake for I saw my self  
condemned sinner and told them that came to disconsolate  
me about the matters of Religion that I saw myself  
be the greatest sinner of all men and had I then owned  
all this globe I would have given it all for an Interest In  
Christ yea all the men upon Earth would not have  
persuaded me out of the opinion that I was more  
willing to receive Christ than he was to receive me  
but it pleased the Lord In a month to raise <sup>me</sup> up to  
considerable state of Bodily health with a grate  
ful earnestness to seek and serve god as I thought Reading  
the scriptures often praying In secret and In my  
family Exhorting many others to seek and serve god and  
warning them against Evil Practices yet In all this  
I did not think I was Born again neither did I think I  
could do anything of my self to or forward the work  
of Regeneration and hear I got clear of one false hope  
and Began to Build upon another now I put quite  
dependance In my nondependance and so went on  
with my Reformation thinking all the good I did It was  
god that wrought It In me and the Evil came from  
the devil and my own corrupt nature and this  
hope gave me great Joy In my good Performances  
but great grief guilt sorrow and Repentance for the

Commitment of any known sin or the omission of  
known duty and so I went on for about two  
years and after this I began to grow more and more  
and my mind engaged in the treasures of this  
and then my delight in religion began to die away  
Continued doing more and more for eight or nine years  
all this I endeavored to do and yet what good  
Reading the scriptures and other ~~other~~ good books  
after some manner praying in my family and in secret  
Praying as I thought earnestly that it might be  
as in months past when the candle of the Lord shined  
about me but when I read I could not remember  
retain any of it after and when I prayed it appeared  
to me as mocking god and at times fearing the  
grace to be over with me which always put to  
whether I had yet any desire for an Intrust  
which I all ways thought I found in me so  
hoping and despairing praying and fearing yet  
mind would get so engaged in the things of  
as if there was no god or future state till at  
the grace of god I began to think I was blind  
both of my own miserable state and ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~remedy~~  
provided for my deliverance then for about five  
six months at times in secret I prayed that god  
enlighten my understanding ~~and~~ and let me  
what I was and the danger I was in and the  
had provided for my deliverance but still grew  
blind ignorant and wicked as I thought but came  
to my self but at last I got hedged up so  
~~that~~ that I could neither read nor pray  
lasted but a short time this was on a sabbath  
september 20th 1781 my family greater part  
going to meeting I longed to have them gone  
might by reading or some means get hold of  
and endeavoring to embrace this opportunity  
a Book of money sermons preached by Calvill  
scotland and opening to a sermon on expecta-  
ing and finding an earnest desire to know  
ment but looking into the book and by  
in <sup>the</sup> I had read it but a little before could  
remember any thing that it contained which  
me such a deadly blow that I ceased the  
ing of reading praying or any other performance  
I could do then it came into my mind to leave



I began to see the Base views I had formerly of  
Jesus Christ and the Plan of salvation for when  
discovery of actual sins and the danger I was  
in too By It I would Repent and Reform and think  
of glorious saviour Christ was and that some time  
he would save me from hell and take me to  
with a desire to be happy But no more desir to be  
in the devil and now I see that outward Conve-  
nient heald with an outward Reformation  
was not to god now he gave me another view of  
now I saw gods Law to be holy and Loved It tho  
all my Condit was condemned By It now I saw  
a stroke against <sup>me</sup> as his Concluse But as a sinner  
I saw that Christ died not only to save man from  
inment of sin but from sin It self and now  
that Christ's office was not only happy But to  
him holy and the Plan now looked Butterfull  
I had no desire to have the Least tittle altered But  
my way was to be conformed to the glories Plan  
I saw so much of the Image and nature of Satan  
It with In my greatest distress Looking upon time  
nothing and Eternity to be all and me no  
In Christ a shocking sight Indeed even to be  
the faculties of soul and Body and now I saw  
of the Lord Jesus himself was to come to me with all  
fullness and require this of me to stretch out and give  
my hand and all should be mine and I would  
for the time and Eternity then I saw that In my  
to draw back If I perished Eternally and now  
that all the Light that heaven affords will  
an ungenerate soul to Love holyness But glory  
and there was life In me now although It discovered  
In me But spiritual death which I found to  
devilish living Princable against ~~the~~ spiritual  
and holyness which some men call a free will.  
I found to be In me had god with held Restraining  
will with Cain and Judas and this was my  
It fear that god would let me draw back and  
distress I found In me If I must perish to Dead  
Gifts of Christ as long as I could I was But for  
the days from the time I was Cut down By the  
Justice of god untill he Razed me up by a Living  
Jesus Christ which was wonderfull to my  
and others It was on the 3<sup>d</sup> of October 1781 I went to  
t night my sleep was departed from me and I  
that god would shew me something that  
and my Cry was to god to search me and Cause

joy to appear heartfull that I might not go back Little Ex-  
ing deliverance at that time It was about ten of the clock  
at night when there came upon me as it were a rushing  
blast of wind which ~~forced~~ brought this voice to my  
mind and soul the Comforter is come which I both heard  
felt within yet no vocal voice or sound without  
But glory to god the load of guilt and Condemnation  
was removed In the twinkling of an eye and my  
was filled with Joy and Peace then It was asked  
Could I desire any thing more and at first I saw no  
this put me to think and I found I had not Love and  
gratitude In me to Return thanks to god for the great  
deliverance he had wrought for me which I began  
to Cry and plead for and these words was spoke to me  
Greater Love theth no man then this that a man lay  
his Life for his friend which came with such a  
Life Love and Power and I knew It to be the voice of  
Blessed Jesus who by his holy spirit set that glorious  
seal to my soul that god is true and that the work  
had done In me was true and now by the grace of god  
I could speake fourth Redeming Love and free grace  
with out dread or fear I never was filled with Extremity  
Joy or grief as some are at this time there was no we-  
eping or moving of Religion no where among us or any  
where neare Round about us there was sum living still  
In the place where I lived and began to tell them  
views of things as from time to time god discovered  
to me that I believed god about to Carey on a glorious  
work In this place & If not through out the world  
I saw that all unregenerate ministry were scattering  
abroad and I saw that ministry which discomfited  
on the doctrines of Grace and the Plan of  
of salvation yet deny an Internal Call Into  
office these men are to be great Peace makers &  
Labour much to unite the world and the Church  
together these men wonderfully mimick Christ  
and many of Christs Lambs are taken In by them  
these Asaachates to there dry and barren pastures  
they Cando It before they are Clear sighted and  
they are well feed with the sincere milk of the word  
I saw they denyed gods revealing to man any office  
duty by his spirit In those days tho It agreed w  
his word I saw these men Leading there Captives and  
world to trample under foot and defile the good  
Pastures and to foule the deep waters unto the ruin  
of soul I have felt for these things the Lord only kn



the suffering and poverty of God's Love In Christ to  
a Perishing man and the delusion man was In his  
and the way and means provided for his recovery  
kind finding my self freed from a treasure In this world  
and an earnest desire for the deliverance of perishing  
souls that I could not forbear going to visit the people  
out the place where I live two or three days at a time  
wondering they must believe what I said and thank be to  
none of them gave me a bad answer. But In general  
acknowledged the state they were In which gave me  
no rest at joy hoping and praying that the Lord would power  
and his spirit upon them. But coming home I would think  
every body would laugh at me and I would not go again  
and so going to work but the distress that would come  
on me my vitals filled with heat my soul distressed for  
the captivity of Zion and there was so few to warn or  
advise with and for sinners my mind and mouth filled  
with longuements strength gone and my mind Intirely taken  
off from my Labour this put me to cry to god to teach  
me. It was my duty to go abroad to give me an Evidence  
not by taking away my distress when I went abroad  
which was immediately done and glory to god this scene has  
followed me ever since and many other calls and teaching  
made clear to me since which I began to speak of  
freely to Christen Brethren and they cry out that  
it was delusion others that I must not give heed to  
such Impressions and all In Love. But I did not believe  
in a for Every Call or Impression lead me right to  
the scriptures and blessed be god he never lead me  
there In vain. But there warning put me to seek  
god to keep me from delusion and Error and at  
that time reading a Book of Mr Edwards of north  
ampton which delighted me much. But reading a  
message relating my case and the condemnation Every thing  
came but Regeneration they started me and I began to  
consider and the devil set In and my Brethrens  
incomings came home now which put me Into such a  
confusion that I knew not what was right or what  
wrong all the calls Impressions and teaching now appeared  
was the delusion and such queasies as these wrought In me  
could such a desire for the Prosperity of Zion and  
Recovery of perishing sinners be from the devil and  
an answer was It might be a zeal not of god and again  
would the devil direct me to speak agreeable to the  
word and appeared Christen witness with It the  
knowledge was he could again It all was from the devil

would It awake in dead and secure sinners and bring  
them to the knowledge of the truth the only way  
no no Power can do this But God and such love as  
these wrought upon me one day But Glory Be to god he  
delivered me out of this and Etablissement me in which  
he had Called me to more firm then before and more  
texts of scripture came to my mind But none seemed  
so sweet to my soul as these words So I am with you  
all way Even unto the End of the world and Ble  
be his name for I find his Blessed Promise made  
good as I am now writing of It  
about six months after I met with a change the  
Began to Brake out wonderfully some In great  
great distress others Praising god and Inviting  
others to Come away to Jesus the work went on  
very Regular In this Place <sup>thore</sup> as many as forty  
more have met with a saving Change In this Place  
and the glorious work has spread round about us  
and wonderfull In some Places all the means I  
any knowledge of that god has Been Pleaced to us  
Is ~~the~~ traveling Brethren or some stirred up  
the work I have traveled about ~~so~~ much within the  
two years ~~where~~ there was settled ministers  
and where there was none and glory Be to god  
and felt the Effects of the Powerfull operations of his  
holy Spirit often Showed down upon our little  
assemblies to the Reviving of Gods sleeping Child  
and to the Convincing of sinners and In every Place  
there was some movings and the people met and Ca  
up these Private meetings there the Lord meet with  
and blessed them But In other Places where there  
as much <sup>note</sup> moving at first on the minds of the people  
they did <sup>not</sup> meet together and their Convictions went  
althogh they had the stated means as they call It  
and I began to wonder hearing these men deliver  
such truths and make no Impression on me with  
on the unregenerate which put me to say to god  
to know what was the reason why he Cared on his work  
other Instruments and not by these and the Lord discov  
to me wherein they differed more then In a vocal voice  
which Is the voice of there general Conduct as Imba  
domy of Christ the voice of the true Is to sinners we tra  
you In Christs stead Be ye Reconciled to god that  
your soul may Live But the voice of the other Is to  
the Church and the world we pray you In Christs  
Be ye Reconciled to gether that we may Live  
I am But a poor writer or Inditer But I desire  
have some Correspondance with Brethren In Chr  
these from your Brother In Christ James Potter

Recd. July 18. 1784. 9.03.



Dear Elder, Backus, . . . State of Virginia, Louisa County, Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> 1799

I received Your kind and interesting letter by Brother Beaman, your Council on the subject of discipline. I thank you for, and I hope, it has, and will be useful to the churches in this part; and because of it's coming from a Minister of your age and experience - Your answer to that part of my letter, relative to my experience and doctrine, both strengthened, and comforted, <sup>me</sup> you mentioned you had experienced and preached the same doctrine upwards of forty years; I can only say my venerable Brother, (if I may be permitted to claim so close a relation) that, that Doctrine I still love, and try to preach to lost sinners, Sovereign Almighty Grace, Only God have reclaimed, a rebellious, wretch like me, That love which God, I sometimes fondly hope, manifested to my soul, engages me to devotion supremely, not altogether for what he has bestowed upon me, but because of what he is in himself Most excellent, it engages <sup>me</sup> to love his people & his Gospel, which Comforts them; and to endeavor to pray for the Operations of his most holy spirit, which reveals Jesus to <sup>them</sup> ~~people~~ <sup>say</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>then</sup> Aged & respectable servant of the Lord, is there any dove so powerfully soft, and sweet, so alluring, constraining, and soul Comforting as the love of Christ, methinks. I can anticipate your answer, "Nothing like it." How excellent is thy loving kindness, Oh God - Upon the Manifestations of this "Love, I have feasted forty years past, and live upon it yet." Well my aged fellow servant, I can also say, Nothing, can satisfy my <sup>soul</sup> longing, short of a sense of that soul satisfying love - It Opens my eyes, Unstops my Ears, Softens my heart, Bows my rebellious will, Opens my sealed lips, and loosens my stammering tongue, to lisp the praises of the God of Love - this shall be our theme, above - To drink, and praise, Admiring Love - I hope Many sinners round this place, will join in praising God for his Boundless love in the gift of the blessed and <sup>admirable</sup> Jesus - Christ the Lord; who came into the world - Oh! Blessed Visitation - to save sinners, Oh! Wonderful errand - of Whom I am the chief. Boundless and Condescending, Compassion: The fruits of this glorious Mission, you have often seen, felt, and tasted - "It is better than Wine" And I trust the young in the Ministry, I have seen, also, felt and tasted of the same blessed fruits, I have, <sup>abundantly</sup> Blessed, with the evidences of this fact, in the course of the last year, and which continues, in a good degree to this present time, the sweet praises of young, Converts, sometimes, have tuned my heart, to proclaim the name of my conquering King, with Confidence - and have experienced, Considerable additions to the churches, unto whom I have the liberty to preach, In One Church upwards of sixty Members, as near as I can recollect since the first of <sup>have been added</sup> January 1798, About the <sup>year</sup> 1794. I was called to preach to a people



in the County of Albemarle, about 20 Miles, or perhaps, a little more from my  
present residence, by a few of my Heavenly Fathers, dear children, in a Neighbor-  
hood, where the Lord had sent his Gospel, about forty Years past, but had been  
taken from them many Years <sup>since</sup> ~~past~~, at my second, and third Meetings. I met  
with rough treatment, from the Sowers of pleasure, but my divine Meetings were  
my favor, in the sight of the People, and Opposers, with drawn. And Wonderfully  
Blessed my weak Attempts to preach his Gospel, in so much, that about the  
Month of August last, a new Church was constituted, and chiefly of mem-  
bers raised, since my first entrance into that part, the day after the Consti-  
tution, was settled, my blessed Lord, permitted me to add to his newly  
constituted Church, and Baptize the same day thirty three Members—  
Oh, my brother join with me to praise that divine loving, and sinners saving  
Lord Jesus Christ, for his unspeakable Blessing— but my Brother I have turned  
the bright side of the Cloud to you; Alas, when I turn mine eyes within  
I discover, so much imperfection, and find so many evils, that I <sup>am</sup> made to  
lament & Mourn, with inward grief, and sorrow— a sight of my self—  
leads me to an Unconditional surrender of my all to God, I see his Justice  
I have his Mercy, and trust his grace, a sense of pardoning Love raises  
within my poor heart, the highest emotions of Love & gratitude, but  
my heart is so heathenous and deceitful, that I cannot trust it. One Minute  
but it betrays, and delivers me into the hands of the enemy (Judas like)  
Oh, tell me Dr. Bro Backus, is it thus with you.— But I must stop—and  
hasten to give you a short detail of other Matters, In One of the Neigh-  
boring Counties, to that in which I live, there has been a sweet revival of  
Religion, and perhaps Upwards of 50 Members added to a new Church  
constituted— I have heard of several considerable Revivals of  
Religion, South of James River, Oh, for an Universal Revival—  
I don't know, whether you were ever acquainted with Elder James  
Read, who has been a preacher of the Gospel Upwards of forty  
Years, and very successfully— I am just now informed by Bro Brew-  
ster he is gone to render an account of his Stewardship— Alas my  
Bro— how shall I stand in that ~~is that~~ trying day— It will be  
more than I can expect to get an answer from you, but if  
you, should notice, so Unworthy, a Creature, a Letter from you  
would be like good News from a far Country— Accept of my  
Sincere Love, and regard, permit me the Unworthy to Call myself

Your fellow labourer in the Vineyard of Ad-

John Anderson  
1846  
In Providence

Received  
July 10. 1846



I follow I am a poor feeble child not able to go one step  
alone but I cant but admire the wonderful goodness of god to  
you sometimes I tremble at a Leaf but My god can and do  
move Mountains that comes in My way a wonder how I have  
been cared along since I was at at your house I find I aint  
to carve out for My self and that is all the butty there  
in religion that I am a poor helpless creatur in My self  
wholly dependent on god a how happy it tis to have god for  
friend for he know what is best for us I cant but hope that  
about to show his Mercy to this church a what a wonder  
king god he is it has been a very dark time with us of late  
god has not forgot us for he has brout one more out of darkness  
into his Marvellous light and I cant but <sup>hope</sup> she will have strength  
to go forwad and own christ before the world I hope it tis but  
a drop before a plentiful shower I hope we shall be innabled  
to pray that god would haping on the Later day glory when the  
nolage of the Lord shall cover the earth of the waters to the  
sea a that soon might Mourn no longer of the waters to the  
to her solom feast I dont expect to stay in this place much  
longer I hope I shant forget the favours I have received  
in this place a that I ~~may~~ give god all the glory give My  
love to all your family and a that they may all be willing  
to bow to king jesus I am now engaged with Mary hall  
I find she is heartly engaged in this blessed cause  
do you pray for Me that I may go right  
and not be a coward but a brave soldier to fight  
and not go too fast nor not go too slow  
but <sup>keep</sup> the right course ware ever I go  
I am call for to go a number of ways  
pray that I may be proud of what I have received  
but allways keep humble at jesus feet  
then I shant be afraid of no troubles I meet  
for I did not think when I first set out My rage  
that I had got a nature so vile and so base  
but I must believe My capitan is true  
and he will car his soldiers every one clear through  
do you remember Me to your young Minister  
and the best of heavens blessings may rest upon him

Marcy Pool



Mary Cook  
Recd. July 3. 1804.  
J. N.

new

Isaac Backus

Middleborough









Dear and Reverend Sir, altho. I am a Stranger to you by  
face, yet Hoping we are Children of one Father, I have  
think some desire to Communicate to you some of my present  
feelings, and in the first place I bless my Saviour I feel his love  
in my Soul, and feel a great desire for the Conversion of  
sinners, and have been labouring this I have been both  
by trying to preach to them and pray for them, but my  
abilities have had but small success hitherto dear Brother pray  
in with me in mighty prayer for poor sinners that they may turn  
to god with their whole Hearts I feel a burning love for you &  
all the Ministers of my Blas. Redeemer may god make us  
all faithful in his Cause. I feel thankful to my god for  
raising me from a long spell of Sickness ever since last August  
that I begin to be to work for him again, I feel a desire  
always to have a single Eye for his glory, I feel desire to in-  
form you that Religion is at this time very low with us here  
we pray with god for a Revival to take place, thus I  
must conclude by sending my love in Christ Jesus to  
you and all the Holy Brethren in the Lord, who Remains  
your Stange brother in the gospel of Jesus.

State of North Carolina

Glasgow County,

Absalom Price

Alphon. Price,  
Steele. 14. 99.  
Recd. July 8.  
1899.

Answered July 9. 1899.



As to our Political Union - it appears that a thick cloud of  
calamities awaits at present ~~between~~ our Nation God grant  
it may not burst with all the horrors of war on our guilty  
heads it appears awaiting to the ~~last~~ information I can  
get that a War with Spain is almost certain. may God  
avert the heavy blow. and so order that peace and good un-  
derstanding may be established on a firm moral foundation  
between the two republics - I am fully convinced the people of  
Virginia are unanimously in favour of the French Republic  
and I myself think that a war with France would be of the  
most destructive nature both with respect to our liberties and union  
but enough of this. I have already wrote my letter to a somewhat length  
must therefore make a close upon closing of you if you think proper  
to write. To me as often as opportunity may conveniently offer  
often may but I shall for your welfare hear and soon return  
liberty in the words of light I subscribe myself yours in fellowship

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

Louisa. March 31<sup>st</sup> 1797

I embrace this opportunity of writing to You, altho I have no personal acquaintance with You. But only remember to <sup>have</sup> heard you preach. when I was a Small Boy. and expect that you perhaps <sup>were</sup> well acquainted with my Parents, But my greatest desire in writing to You is to cultivate a friendship and also lay a foundation of a future intimacy by way of correspondence, my present Situation ~~in life~~ is perhaps for a for life at such a distance from my Native place, that writing is perhaps the only way of communicating my thoughts to my friends at such a distance. Your Long Standing in the Church of Christ, and your eminency in divine Knowledge makes me the more anxious to form an intimacy with You chiefly on account of improving my Self by the receipt of your letters as well as to perpetuate a lasting and Pious friendship. my Distance is ~~just~~ on South Mamunky River in Louisiana about forty miles from Richmond, I am at Present together with my Wife members of the Church of Christ. Cal. & Will in the bounds of the Goshen Association. With Respect to Religion in our Church we have had <sup>some</sup> small additions the year past our Neighbouring churches have been also blessed with the divine Refreshings. Some in a Greater and Some in a less degree as to the Present State of the churches in General as far as my Knowledge extends Peace and Union prevail. I think also divine Knowledge as far as respects the Grand Doctrines of Christianity is for these three ~~four~~ or four years been on the gaining ground the doctrine of Arminianism is almost entirely extinguished from our churches. the rapid spread of beer among the ungodly part of Mankind in our State has I think been a means of Spurring up the faithful to a more strict Search in the scriptures to know if these things are really so. Mr Thomas Paine's Celebrated Age of Reason in two Parts has given ~~an~~ amazing Shock to temporary professors the other Books an appeal.



The Rev. Isaac Packard

Aug. 1. 1794.

W. A. Burdett

Mar. 31. 1797.

Dec. 23. 1793.

The Rev. Isaac Packard

Minister of the 2<sup>d</sup> Baptis-

-Church in -

A. J. Burdett - New England

1793

Louisa April 11<sup>th</sup> 1799

Dear Sir

I Received your favour by Mr Bream about  
years since I was prevented by the contents of your letter and should  
have wrote you before this time but the want of an opportunity  
prevented me hitherto and now as providence opens an opportunity  
I thankfully embrace it and thank you for your

communication the most interesting & interesting Subjects  
in my knowledge The Memorial of the Baptist General  
Assembly past last Session, in favour of the Memorialist  
State of Religion in the Baptist churches I think is in a  
living way there has been several revivals in Virginia since  
you before in the church of which I am a member there  
has been a Sweet Revival which began after a long  
the Season in the Beginning of the Summer 1795 and  
continued ever since tho it has not been so noisy as in  
places tho it has been carried on by a gentle yet offer-  
ing small Voice tho during the last year from march 98  
march 99 there has been baptised upon profession of faith  
about fifty seven members who we charitably hope  
sincerely converted to God and the work appears  
to be carrying on many appear to be deeply affected with  
eternal things there has been also a Revival in the chur-  
Leekins hole in Goochland County about thirty was  
baptised last year chiefly Negroes and in the forks of  
James River near Colsonia there has been fifty odd  
baptised in one church.



though in many places an encasing coldness prevails  
among professors and ~~in~~ most Heavens preaching wisdom  
=ness prevails among those who oppose Religion.

yet I humbly hope ~~to~~ that the time is coming along  
when the mourners in Zion shall sing for joy of  
heart and the knowledge of <sup>the</sup> Lord cover the earth as  
the waters cover the sea. And now dear Sir trusting  
that I have an interest in your Prayers I pray God  
to preserve you a crown your Labours with Success  
and at last crown you with eternal glory so -  
I may pray you affectionately tho' unworthy

Brother in Gospel Bonds -

Elisha Huntington  
The Reverend Isaac Backus

P.S. I shall always esteem it as a singular instance  
of friendship if ~~you~~ should think proper to favour  
me with a letter as ~~off~~ often as an opportunity  
offers

E. A. Huntington  
Sept. 11. 1799.  
Recd. July 3. 18.

An Answer  
July 8-99.

Mr. I proposed before this time to have been  
at your house but things hath fell so Contrary  
to my Purposes & Conclude I am justly hindered and  
if you have not already Laid yourself out for to  
get a Concordice for me and <sup>may</sup> ~~be~~ as well as well for you  
& Define you would not get it at present for I have  
found (& trust) where I can get Cradens as to the other  
Book we talked about I should be glad to have it and  
if you can send it with the price in it and Likewise  
the other Books an appeal to the Publick I will take  
Care to send you the Contents these from yours Elifharanfon  
at y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> D<sup>r</sup> 1773



Letter from Ellis  
Hanson. 1978.

John Backus Elder  
at Middletown N.Y.

St

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Rev. Walker    | J. Backus    |
| Mr. Dodge      | J. Winbr.    |
| John C. 234    | Nathl. Green |
| Sam. Philips   | D. Ledoyt    |
| Ann. Putnam    |              |
| Shadrach Green |              |

*Enclosed*  
I have sent you for Eld: W. Rogers, 4/ for 1 Doz  
pamphlets, recd at Ashford in Sept 1783, - I should have  
forwarded the pay before, but had no opp: - I have  
sold but a part of the above; but thought proper to  
send y<sup>e</sup> Money for y<sup>e</sup> whole.

I remain y<sup>r</sup> to serve  
Valentine Rathbun.

Newport 12<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1784.

To Eld: Isaac Backus,

Recd and decd by  
N<sup>o</sup> 10 Caroline Rathbun boundy, July 6<sup>th</sup> 1785



Patthbun

Letter Aug. 18.

1484

Pat. Aug. 17.

S. O.

Eliza Isaac Bachus

Rev. Mr. Middleborough  
Mass.  
Aug. 17

N<sup>o</sup> Carolina Halifax County, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1795.

Recd. and dear Br.<sup>r</sup>

If I had any Thing to communicate to you, which would administer any Comfort or Satisfaction; it would give me Pleasure to write: However, I desire to let you know, that I have not forgotten you; and if I had any hopeful Prospect of ever seeing you again in this World, it would be very pleasing to me. We had a small Revival of Religion, last Summer; soon after which I was taken sick, and yet continue poorly: But the Lord chastises as a compassionate Father, his Struck have not been so heavy as my Ingratitude called for. My Family are in tolerable good Health, Thanks be to God for it. I should be exceedingly glad to receive a few Lines from you, whenever Opportunity will permit. My Love to you; and may the Blessing of God attend you and Yrs.  
Please to pray for me and my Family.

I hope that I remain your Sincere and affectionate

Brother in the Lord

Jesse Read



Eliza Jane Bachus

Rev. Mr. Middleborough

Bathurst

Letter Aug. 18.

1984

Rec'd Aug. 17.

J. B.

Jose Read.  
April 3. 1995.  
Rec'd Aug. 18.  
J. B.

Letter from Eliza  
Hanson. 1993.

Rev. Walter  
Mr. Dodge  
John C. 1834  
Saml. Phelps  
Ans. Putnam  
S. Kirk Green





Halifax, January 3. 1799

Dear Brother,

Yours of July 18<sup>th</sup> recd. by Br. 4

Bramer, but I have not had a convenient Opportunity of acknowledging the Favour till now, and I should be glad if I had anything equal in Value to return, the Amount which you gave me of the astonishing Manner of the Lord's Working in the Places which you mention is pleasing and encouraging, and brings to my Mind that he hath said "I will do all my Pleasure." I thank the Lord, we have had some Appearance of a Revival of Religion in our Parts, tho' but few have been added to the Church; but I had the Happiness some time past to receive a few Lines from Br. James Saunders of Buckingham County, Virginia, there had been an Addition of Sixty Members to the Church in a few Months, and the Work was still going on; and in several other Places there have been good Revivals of Religion, as I am informed. I have had to wade through a Number of Difficulties, but hitherto the Lord hath helped me,

and I can say with you, that I find the need  
of Sovereign Mercy; and I think these are  
greatly blinded who depend on their doings  
in Time, or sufferings in Hell to purge  
away Sin, or obtain the Favour of God.  
very Dear and Rev. Br. Pray to the Lord  
to keep me from Error in Principle, and  
Disorder in Practice; for these are the  
Things by which the Lord is dishonour  
ed by too many in this Age of the World.  
If you live to enjoy another Opportunity  
please to write to me again, as it is the  
only way that you can speak to me at  
so great a Distance, and love to hear  
you talk.

I am with sincere Esteem  
Yours in the best of Bonds

Jesse Read

Jesse Read  
Jan. 3. 1799  
Recd. July 3.  
J. R.

Answered  
July 9. 1799.





very dear and Rev. Br. Thayer to the Lord

Middleborough April the 17 Day year 1802

Permit me my Beloved Angel of the <sup>latter</sup> Church of Middleborough  
since i am deprived of verbal communication <sup>with you</sup> I feel  
it an esteemed favor that i can address you by  
Way of epistel i would address you as you assured  
that the long absence does not wear my affection from you  
in the least degree my spirital father i will inform  
you that i feel that union to be the same now as it  
was the day i entered into covenant with you Sir  
and took you to be my father and are teacher my shepherd  
and my guide and many has been the time that my  
Soul has been led into green pastures by the side of  
still waters when i have sat under the banner of  
your preaching and i still possess the same mind to love the  
Lord and vindicate that cause that i covenanted with  
you to promote for i have not forgot the days of my  
illumination nor the days of my espousal to my beloved  
saviour but this i must say i never found any ~~people~~  
people like my covenant brethren in all the rounds  
of my life the heaven born souls are ~~very~~ near  
indeed to me yet like queen ester i would say  
give me my people at my request for the cords  
of spirital love twin them so near my heart that i cannot  
it in life neither do i expect to lose it in death Per  
Sir when i look back and think how i used to be  
furnished with health and privilege of meeting to the house  
of worship with you and could hear the sound of your  
voice that was so delightful to me and so often signified  
my mind home to my father in heaven and led my  
soul to the inexhaustible fountain when i take a  
thought on this and then think on the pregnant time  
now i am deprived of all these privileges i am almost  
ready <sup>to say</sup> hard is my fate when dose fortune frown so a  
gainst me when dose the almighty deal thus with  
me pain would i search into his secreted to know  
what the reason is but i learn from these words  
be still and know that i am god to be humble and



submit to the dealings of the almighty and to say  
let the Lord be god and my will bowed in subjection  
to his knowing that i am but a stranger and sojourner  
here below seeking a city whose maker and builder is  
god Mr Packus i have a great desire to see you  
once more while we surn on our pilgrimage  
but i fear some times that i shall not be so favored  
for i know my health will not omit of it and i  
know that you are in a low state of health at present  
but if i cannot have that favor here i hope  
that we shall meet where sorrow ill never  
come below Elder i verily believe you may say  
at the close of your life with peace that faithful  
minister of jesus christ i have finished my course  
and kept the faith and wait the same reward  
god has laid up in heaven for me a crown which cannot  
faint the righteous going at that great day shall please it  
on my side i doubt not but this will be your happy case  
and your soul will be conveyed home to glory by angels  
and thus that have been given you for the seal of the  
your ministry will be as stars in your crown i will  
inform you that i am in better health than i was when  
i see you last and my reeling has got his helot so as  
to maintain his family and we have got beyond  
the trouble we was under when i see you last and  
i wish to always to be thankful to great a  
blessing So no more at present but i take the leave  
to stile my self your sister in the Lord the most  
unworthy Mekelebel Redding

N B. give my <sup>love</sup> to your family and likewise  
to my covenant brethren and pray for do Son.  
me a letter if you are able

Do not see. Dr. Gray to the Lord.  
p. 9. 11. 12.

To  
Miss  
C.

Melitt. Reading,

Apr. 17. 1802.

Recd. May 2—

J. B.

Dr. M. M. M. M.

Mr. John Brown

Dr.

J.

17



This I received on Thursday  
Sept 18: 1750  
From Thomas  
and sent an answer  
to him the next day

So March 22 September 22 1640

Dear brother and sister in the dear Lord I have taken  
this opportunity to write to you and now wishing Grace  
many and peace to rest upon you as well as on the whole  
Church of God and now I must let you know what  
the Lord has bin doing for me Since I saw you  
notwithstanding all my rebalgen and ebominations  
the Lord has bin pleased to visite my Soul with his Love  
and has given me to renew Covenant with him  
and I had need to do it every minnitte and now I can  
tel you and Glory be to God for it he is a faithfull  
Covenant-keeping God and now my dear brother  
hold fast that thou hast Let no man take thy Crown  
for my Soul dos know that the Conquest is won  
and the battel is the Lords and in a breaste or two  
more wee shall get the victory by the Word of the  
Lam and the word of our testimony dear brother  
pray hard for Zidon I know the Lord has heard his  
cunier and the cause of Zidon near my Soul ~~at~~ the  
I am a shepherd that of Zidon so litle that religion  
I profess and now Glory be to God for he has bin  
in Zidon and a fire was in jerusalem and it is  
take away our tin and our dross and now if the  
inimie has maid a shot upon us and wee hardly  
know he is wounded the way is for us to march  
off the Ground: and I am redy to say some time  
when he so much in Lukewormness and indifferen  
in religion in others as well as my self I am  
redy to say by home shall sea of a rise for he  
is small but Glory be to God I do se Zidons Cause  
is in the hands of Zidons God and now Glory be  
to God he has not left him self without a witness  
in that he dos appear and refresh the hearts of his  
Sants Children and there dos seem to be a fire that  
dos inquire what they shall do to be saved tho it is  
an awful shuyred time here in genarel no more at this time  
my wife was delivered of a daughter last saturday morning  
and is quite comfortable and wee do send our Love to you  
both and desire your prayers for us and so remain  
yours to serve in the dear Lord Gamaliel Penels



My Letter from  
Jamalied Rendos  
Sept. 11. <sup>th</sup>. 1750

Goode Backus

Christian Fellowship  
Peter, Sept. 11.  
1750.

Jamalied Rendos

From 13<sup>th</sup> Rich of  
Seamington. Nov. 22. 1770.  
Rec<sup>d</sup>. Dec. 12. 1770.



Garnett

Albany November 22 1790

From your friend and well wisher. Elsha Rich  
of Birmingham. Dear Brother by these lines  
I would inform you of some things that  
have laine with weight on my mind of  
Late on the aount of which I had  
purposed to have come and seen you  
But sence providence seems to shut the  
Doore at present I thought it duty to  
Send you a letter you have doubtless heard  
of if not seen some Books that have  
Come in publick of late By Samuel hovey  
In which I think are some things very  
interesting to the spirits their was some in  
our society which seemed to Be settled  
in his plan Before these Books came in  
publick and with whom I had a considerable  
Labour But these Books it seemed to be  
to little purpose and when these Books  
Came amonge us and I had seen something  
of what was in them I soon see something  
must Be done but what I knew not for  
some time I ~~see~~ see he had so handled  
The gospel Dispensation in such a way as  
to make a nullity of the gospel invitation  
or call to ~~man~~ mankind in general supposing  
those scriptures in which it is contained to  
Be spoken in a conditional forme and so  
Consequently the languig of the law I could  
not see but his plan must of necessity  
silence gods voice in the gospel  
Dispensation as being Directed to sinners in  
general where the gospel comes and being  
Bore downe with fears what the affect of this  
Books would be among us and Elie whaine I  
trust I was inabled to submit the case to  
I sarahs keeper looking to him for wisdom  
soon after I had light into a pasig of scripture

for mat 22<sup>nd</sup> on which I improved in position  
to his plan which had an unexpected effect  
on the hearers especially on some who seemed  
to be most settled in their principles. I threw  
the wonderful goodness of god their is little  
appearance of the Books going much hurt  
among us my Discourse was adapted to lay open  
the Error in his Doctrin the Discipline being  
new and strange to me I did not speak upon it  
my Discourse is judged to have kept up the  
foundation of his plan and to have demonstrated  
the mystery of the universal call of the gospel  
as being consistent with the Doctrin of Election  
I have by the advice of friends <sup>and</sup> brought down  
the Discourse and it is proposed to be published  
but I think it is more proper that some more  
capable should undertake in this case who  
can answer both Doctrin and Discipline  
his Discipline I chuse not to meddle with <sup>with</sup> ~~without~~ <sup>more</sup>  
light into it Dear Brother in my Request  
to you is that if god gives you light  
into the snares I think there is in his  
Letter you would do what you can to answer  
it and Discover the Errors if you find your  
self exposed to undertake in the Affair  
may send me a letter as soon as you  
can but if not I desire your <sup>words</sup> send me  
a letter and give me your advise if you  
can send a letter soon to Deacon Earle  
in Atteborough I may get it from brother  
nathan man of Rentham and Deacon  
Condit have heard part of what I have  
taken down in opposition to this new  
way of handling the word of god and  
they think it very necessary we should  
see one another soon that you may see  
what I have done they think I had better



Come and see you if you can't come over  
over way if you were like to visit of  
atellburgh Kantham or Boston I would and  
could find me word. when I would do my  
indever, to come and see you but if you  
are not likely to be called to any of these  
places I would not come. I am in Birmingham  
I shall try to come to your house if you  
can let me know when you will be at  
home I should have been glad to have sent  
you the plan of my Righting had I time  
if you look upon Mr. ~~Watts~~ <sup>Watts</sup> however's letter to be  
such an insinuating thing as I do you  
will think something ought to be done  
For I don't think his plan falls anything  
short of a bidding God and his messengers  
to be ~~planted~~ <sup>planted</sup> in his Genarat work to  
man a a gospel call and we must be  
more for the spirit and the ~~truth~~ <sup>truth</sup>  
But it must be termed a conditional  
Scheme or the languish of the law  
he takes up against the gospel invitation  
upon the word offer and so doth Mr. Sanderson  
and this being not a scripty term they  
tear it under foot with the more boldness  
I have not contended for this term in my  
Righting altho I see not the difference betwene  
it and the word invite it being not a  
Scripty phrase I thought I was not pinched  
up to a necessity to use it but cheaply  
made use of the call ~~Produce~~ <sup>Produce</sup> or invite  
The Lord Direct you in what ought  
to be done at this Day in Defense of the truth  
when the misty of iniquity spins his threads  
the servants of Christ must keep close to truth  
So I Remaine your friend and well wisher  
Elisha Rich

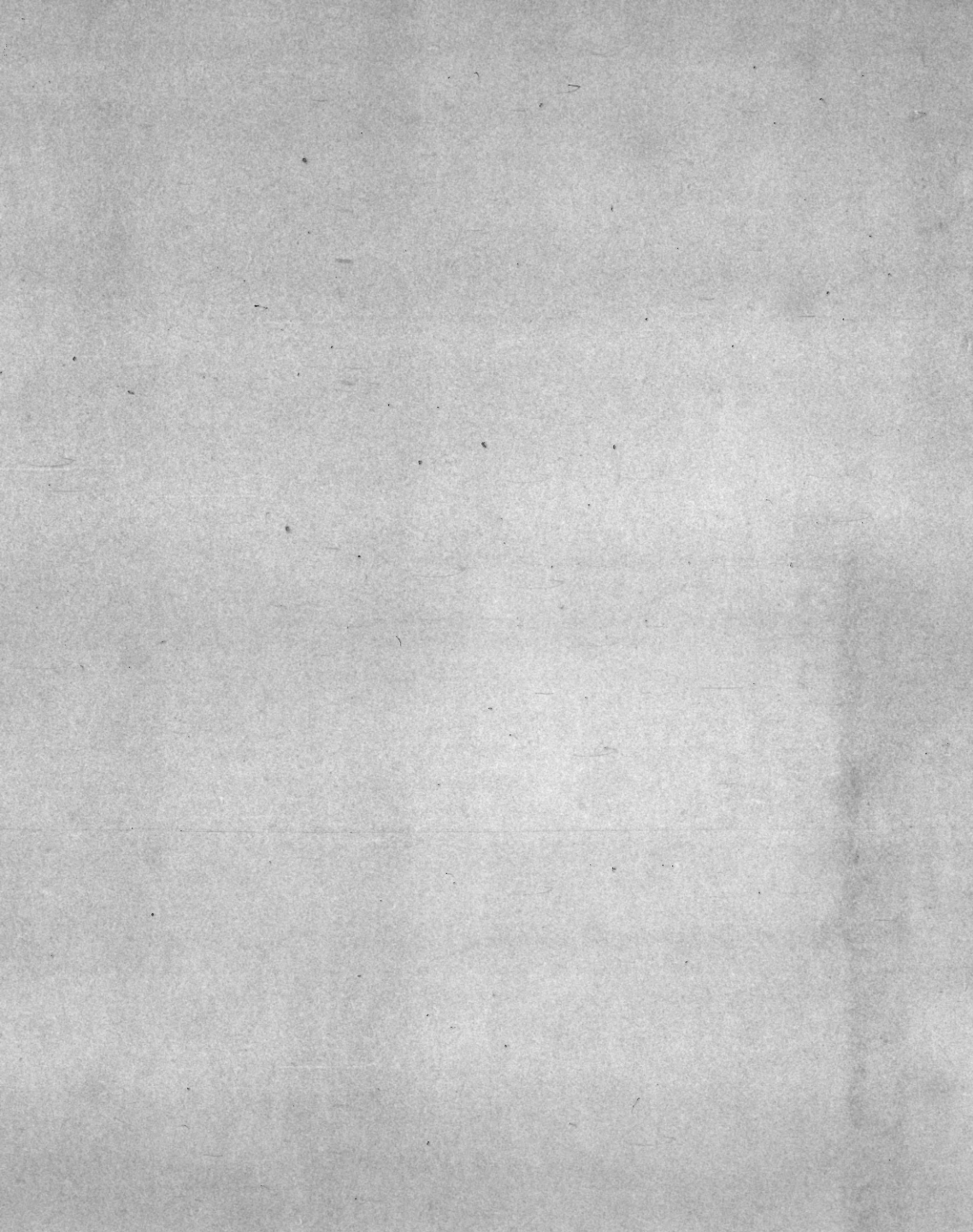
Edha Rick  
Letter  
Nov. 22.  
1770

November the 22 1770

Dear Mr. Rick  
I have just received  
your letter of the 17th  
and am glad to hear  
that you are well  
and hope you will  
continue so.









Rev. and dear Sir,

Baltimore 3. May 1797.

Brother Name is now at my  
House, on his Journey to New England. I take  
the liberty of addressing few lines to you, though  
I am unknown to you, as you are indeed to me,  
except by Name and Character. I have frequently  
heard of you, as an ancient servant of Jesus X.  
and valiant for his Cause & Interest in the world,  
which makes me love you dearly in the bonds  
of the Gospel of our adorable God & Saviour. —  
I wish it were in my power to give you pleasing  
account of Religion in this Part of the Union, —  
but alas! 'The ways of Zion mourn' with us  
here. — Iniquity abounds, & the love of many waxeth  
cold. — I hope you enjoy a more lively Zeal in  
the exercise of Religion to the Northward ~~than~~  
we do here to the Southward, if you don't, Religion  
must be at a low ebb indeed. — Nevertheless, I trust  
we have <sup>only</sup> Names, even in this City, who not believe  
in It to the Salvation of their Souls, but walk  
worthy of their vocation. — Alas! The number  
of real Xians, or such as believe the genuine  
Doctrines of the Gospel, are but few when compared  
with those, who have found (as they imagine) an  
other Gospel,

of y.<sup>e</sup> United States, I have but few Institutes to

which brings more glory to God, and is more agreeable  
and pleasing to Carnal Men, than I can venture to  
Preach to perishing sinners. - But the truth is, in my  
Opinion, that the Doctrine which such Preachers  
Publish, is dishonourable to God, and destructive to  
the souls of Men. - The Doctrine I endeavour to propagate  
is the efficacious discriminating Grace of God. come  
consequently, I have to stand almost alone in this Race,  
amidst a large Number of self-righteous Pharisees,  
who take away my Lord, and I know not where they  
lay Him. - Through Grace, rich, & matchless Grace, we had  
four Persons added to us last year, 3 before the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. and  
one since. - I shall be exceedingly happy to receive a line  
from you by return of the Broom, that I may have the pleasure  
of hearing of the state of Religion with you to the Eastward.  
Excuse brevity, and inaccuracy, as the Broom is now  
waiting, anxious to set off on his Journey; and I am  
a poor blundering Welshman at the best. -  
I wish you my Ancient Brother (or rather Father) much  
of the Presence of God while in this vale of Tears, &  
Pray for your success in the Name of the Lord -  
When it goes well with you at a Throne of Grace,  
remember less than the test of all Saints. - I am  
Rev. & dear Sir, your sincere, tho' unworthy Brother  
in Christ &c. &c. Lewis Richards



of y.<sup>e</sup> United States, I have but few minutes to say  
Lp. + H. &c.

27  
ex

Elder Isaac Backus

Chas. by Mr. Wm. Bromme.

Rev. Richards  
May 3. 1797.  
Recd June 28.  
S. N. 3.

Ans'd June 30.



7  
Esteemed Brother in Christ. Baltimore May 13<sup>th</sup> 1799-

I recollect to have rec<sup>d</sup>. a letter from you (by Bro. Brame) last Fall was a true comfort, which gave me peculiar Pleasure in the perusal, for which I thank you dear Brother. Brother Brame the bearer of this is just setting off on his Journey to your Parts of the United States, I have but few Minutes to write you a Line at this Time. - Sorry I am that I have no pleasing News respecting the Interest of Lion's King to communicate. - Alas, the Shadows of the Evening are stretched out upon us! Oh, that I could say it were with us as in former Years! - But the Truth is, iniquity prevails & Love of (not God) but many waxen cold. - True we had three Persons added to this Church last Year, but we have lost twice as many by Death. - Among whom was the Beloved Wife of my Brother, after being married upwards of 22 years. Her Death was unexpected & very sudden, she was struck by an Apoplectic Fit as she was riding out in a Chair, and in 45 hours from the time she was taken died, which ~~was~~ <sup>will be</sup> a year the 21<sup>st</sup> Instant. - Thus my Brother, the hand of God hath touched me in a very tender Part. - but if Judge of all the Earth always does right. - My only Consolation is, that Nancy was one who truly loved & feared God, & walked in his ways for many years. - She left me with six Children living, but it had

pleased a good, gracious, and a wise God, to take an amiable  
Child, my youngest Daughter to Himself, last December. I have  
no Daughter but my beloved Botsey, although but in the Eleventh  
year of her life is now singing the Song of Free Grace and  
Dying Love in Glory. Never did I see or converse with such a  
Child in all my days before, that had so much knowledge of  
Divine Things, that asked me so many Questions about Eternal  
Things, and wanted to <sup>know</sup> every thing, yea all Things pertaining  
to Life and Salvation, and wanted to understand even the  
Mystery of the Trinity, as well as <sup>to know all</sup> about Heaven, Angels &  
the spirits of Just Men made perfect - as she was dying she  
requested a pious woman & myself, to sing Praises to God, when  
we thought the holy Angels would come to take her soul to Glory.  
I have related to Mr. Brame a good deal of her Exercise,  
which, if he does not forget, he may relate to you, as I have  
no time to write at this time. - Out of the Mouths of Babies &  
Sucklings God perfecteth Praise - which I believe was verified in  
my dear little Daughter. - You'll excuse me for not enlarging  
as I am in a poor State of Health at present, and am afflicted  
in my right Shoulder & Arm with the Rheumatism. indeed  
I shall enjoy a but little Health since it pleased God to afflict  
me in the loss of my dear wife. But I hope & pray, that all Things shall  
be together for my good, if I am one of those God, I shall know it  
here after, if I don't know of feel it at present. I desire to be  
submissive to the will of God in all Things, though ever so  
painful & distressing to my Feelings, because I am sure



God can never do wrong. I hope, the work of the  
 Lord prospers under your Ministry, and that Bro 23.  
 if I should live to see him return this way again, will  
 bring me good tidings, that Jesus Reigns in your neigh-  
 borhood. - I hope my dear Brother, and I may also say  
 Father in Christ, can find a heart to pray for me  
 when it goes well with <sup>you</sup> at a Throne of Grace. -  
 I shall be happy to hear from you by the Bearer hereof. -  
 May the Lord Bless you & also yours, is my sincere  
 Prayer. I remain your sincere, though very  
 unworthy Brother in the peaceful Gospel  
 of our adorable Redeemer Jesus Christ. -

Lewis Richards

N.B. You will excuse (I hope) all faults & blunders in my  
 hasty scrawl as I really have no time to write you a  
 more perfect Letter at this time. - L.R. -

Answered  
July 9. 1799.

Elder Isaac Backus

Lewis Richards

May 13. 1799.

Rec. July 3.  
J. B.

Trav. by Mr. W. Branne.



From N.

priche  
in middle

of

to

honoured for I right unto thee with an abhorrence  
of my self using but a litle of my self I desire  
you and all the Children of god to pray for me that  
I may know much more of my self than I have  
yet known our lord hath never the less when I  
come shall I find path on the earth and  
it looks to me <sup>that</sup> time is at hand but be it as it is  
to be it is time for me to seek that righteousness  
that will clothe me from divine vengeance  
I acknowledged the hand of god in the troubles that man  
has broat on me psalm the 35 vers the 11 folg witness  
did rise up they led to my charge things that I never  
not psalm the 59 vers 4. they that hate me without  
cause are more than the hairs of mine head they that would  
destroy me being mine enemies wrongfully are mighty than  
I restored that which I took not away are mighty than  
I cried unto the lord O god thou knowest my friends  
and my sins are not hid from thee <sup>my friends</sup> my foolishness  
for I finde it is vane to trust the best of men therefore  
O for I desire that you would pray for me and pray earnestly  
for such a poor creature that has nothing to recommend my self  
O that I could always walk with a singel eye to the glory of  
god I pray that Christ mite be formed in me O lord thou art  
and non els besides the O that I might be entered of self  
and be broat to know nothing but Christ and him crucified  
O that such as are renewed would awak out of the slumber  
and cry mightily to god for my soul that I may put off the  
old man with his deeds and put on the new man which after god  
is created in righteousness and true holiness I know not what  
right my mind being full of trouble but I remane a  
friend to all my fellow creatures Amen

N R



an. 14. 1469.  
8. 13  
Ruckers.

in gospel  
brock  
m

Nathl. Richardi  
de Caration  
Jan. 14 69







London Dec 5. 98

Dear Sir,  
Had a great pleasure to write if not the  
about our hands & half a shill the only  
able only to reward.

Have not heard from you since April  
1797. perhaps you have lost the French  
my have the Pockets.

Am pleased with you and you will have  
No 15 of the Stockbridge Indians - &  
by this time, your History (however  
only) of the Indians' Churches is in its way  
Explained. I have <sup>2</sup> some letters from the  
Stockbridge Indians, also to N York  
society, & one of them answers to your Indians,  
you know any portion of Saint Nils &  
Congregation?

We are about to publish the Register  
in numbers again, if life & health are  
warranted - send all in news you can  
I am forward as desired

2 No 11

19 of No 15. Have not sold half of your  
Volumen yet - you had paper in Vol 1.  
had prejudiced in English against it the  
work.

I am sure you will grieve to see  
the last leaves of No 15 - you, your dear  
Correspondent is dead - he was very happy  
in his soul; & is safely landed. Lord  
to follow him, as he followed Christ.

its and the Churches of our country



Did you make any other extracts I can think  
baird, M. S. besides what you sent me, & Mr  
Thomas? You just mention Dr. Parrell,  
as not a Quaker before 1650. Do you I want  
record mention any mention of him which are  
not in print - if so I shall be glad of them,  
as I am to give his life (from a printed  
volume of his life) in my History of Pennsylvania  
fields burying ground where he is deposi-  
ed.

I expect he will give a good biography  
of the Thomas.

I duly read & etching of your laureate  
vance, for which I make due acknow-  
ledgments - but is it a likeness, if so any  
respect shall be paid to it - but the  
American friends sent me a bad like-  
ness of Dr. Manning, & then said the  
engraver had not done his duty, the  
The engraving was like the painting,  
we were all of could reasonably have  
been expected.

I have had great and deep last 2  
years in our Church - & four called  
to the work of the Ministry - these of whom  
are students at Princeton.

O that your last days may be your  
best. Have not time, only to say, if  
I am very affec. to you in our land, G. Lippin

Answered June 22. 1799.  
Another July 21. 1801.

The 2 of No. 11 he had  
sent Feb. 27. 98 for that  
I did not want the.

in who languishing some in Religion in our expect



Rev Isaac Backus

Middleboro

John Rippon,

Oct. 5. 1798.

Rec. June 21. 1799.

J. B.

Dear Bro<sup>r</sup>, Tho the hands of Bro<sup>r</sup> Wm<sup>r</sup> Frame  
 have ventur'd to send you a small letter,  
 not to bring on acquaintance, or to provoke  
 correspondence, than from any information  
 we pretend to give, I live in a very remote  
 place from you, and of late too much so from  
 the fountain of all happiness, it has been but  
 a cold and languishing time in Religion in  
 our parts, and the Churches of my acquaintance  
 for a considerable while past, some years  
 ago we had a happy ingathering, in which the  
 Church grew from about 50 or 60 to upwards  
 of 200, but alas now our Harps are hung up  
 on the Willows.

I am not well enough informed into the  
state of the southern churches and associ-  
es to say much about them. by some Minutes  
and private letters I think there appears to



3  
be some little life, and a good deal of good  
order & harmony in the Charlestown and  
Bethel also, <sup>ns</sup> -.

I should be happy to receive a line from  
you, but wou<sup>d</sup> not wish you to take pattern  
by mine as to size or otherwise. I long to hear  
something that may be reviving and might  
tend to stir me up or also to instruct me  
in that wherein I am ignorant, should I  
have a privilege again of writing I hope to be  
more full, at least I trust <sup>to have it</sup> more in my  
power to communicate some <sup>more</sup> satisfactory intelli-  
-gence; in the mean time I am & hope ever  
to be yours in the bonds of

I live in Person  
County North Carolina  
about 20 miles from Hillsbo-  
rough.  
G R

The Gospel.

Geo Proberts  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1797

No. As Mr John Williams in his life time  
appear'd very desirous for a History of the  
Baptiste churches &c in Virg<sup>a</sup> I should be  
glad to know your thoughts on that subject  
whether you think it would be well for  
any other person or persons to put forward  
for it, and strive to carry it into effect,  
and who might be got to compile the same  
I suppose he had prepar'd something towards  
it but his death and indeed his long Illness  
prevented his prosecuting <sup>the</sup> work, I live near  
the Virginia line and formerly belong'd to  
that State however I judge if there is a his-  
tory it should include more than one state

C Roberts,



Ansford July 10. 1797.

George Rodat  
Jan. 11. 1797.  
Dec. June 28.  
8. 13.

Middleborough Massachusetts

Elder Isaac Backus

Person County N. Carolina June 3<sup>th</sup> 1798

Yours of July 10<sup>th</sup> came to hand. The 20 which was great satisfaction to me as it full of information & gives <sup>me</sup> more to believe in the use of a Baptist History in these Southern States than ever, Tho' I have long thought it would be of service to the present & more so to the future Generations, but who will step forward in the work I do not know, I suppose there are materials which were in the hands of Bro<sup>r</sup> Williams before his death & might be yet come at, was there any person who would take upon them, or in fact was able to compile a History so as to appear with credit to the world, I do not doubt but there are men in the Baptist Ministry in South Carolina who are capable to carry on that work, but I am not personally acquainted with them & besides I cannot tell whether they are in the Spirit of it, I have thought Bro<sup>r</sup> Leland had a good turn for writing History but his removal from Virginia leaves me no expectation of his doing of it, unless he returns, which I think you mention in a letter to Bro<sup>r</sup> Thos. Jenkins something of his being about to come to that State again.

We have had no extraordinary revivals since



I wrote to you by Bro<sup>r</sup> Brame, a few have been  
~~gathered in last fall & winter~~ under the  
ministry of Bro<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Brown about 15 or 16  
miles above me, & I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Bro<sup>r</sup>  
Courtney in Richmond mentioning a <sup>revi-</sup>  
val there & in some other parts of Virginia,  
Bro<sup>r</sup> Courtney inform<sup>d</sup> me he baptiz<sup>d</sup> 31  
in a day last fall, I am glad to hear of  
a work in any part of the country and shou<sup>d</sup>  
be truly rejoiced to see the happy time  
commence once more in the place where  
I labour, I am something more than 45 years  
of age, & I think it was in July (1731) I began  
to preach, I have made but poor progress in  
so good a cause, however several very consi-  
derable revivals have taken place in the  
time, & I still hope God will again visit  
his people in these regions before I leave  
the stage.

With the letter you sent me, one came  
to Bro<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> D Brame in the same packet  
but before it came to hand he had left  
our world, he dyed some time last fall  
or latter part of the summer or perhaps the  
forepart of the summer.

I have often thought I had a desire to tra-  
vel in ~~the~~ some of the Northern States could I  
make it convenient but I am so corpulent that  
I could not ride on horse-back that distance, I <sup>wish</sup> could  
to be an inhabitant in a more populous country

than this, on account of the difficulty of going far  
to ~~meeting~~ a horse back soon fails when I journey  
on horse back, & Roads are not suitable for a Carriage  
in a great deal of this hill Country.

I wish I could send you some pleasing accts  
of a growing time in Religion, but seeing those  
golden Hours are Over, <sup>we</sup> must wait God's time,  
& that we may wait agreeable to his own  
appointed way tell he shall return among  
us: Adieu Dr Bro<sup>r</sup> till we meet in a World  
of Spirits

George Roberts

As I have no other opportunity  
to send you this letter but  
by the post

he heard  
of

you some times and  
the more I hear of you the more I love you



Mount Vernon  
July 11<sup>th</sup> 98  
BOSTON  
Colonel Isaac Backus Middle

25

Form.

29  
15

Borough Massachusetts

Recd. 1798.  
June 8. 1798.  
Recd. 1799.  
8. 13.

North Carolina Person Co ly

Dear Br, I recd yours by means of Bro Brame  
in time in March last, and sent you ano-  
ther by the post some time last Spring, tho  
I am indoubt it might never reach you,  
I am now in a poor situation to wife being  
lame in my right hand by a fall from my  
chest a few days ago

Your letter was a great satisfaction to  
me, not only on account of the information  
it gave me but in respect of the good news  
of the work of God your mention as begun  
and going on in several places, I wish I  
could transmit you some pleasing account  
of the like in our parts, but alas it is oth-  
erwise, not only in one but most of the con-  
gregations in our district, the letters from the  
different churches to the Last Yearly Associ-  
tion were full of complaints of this kind  
we are ready to say with the prophet The  
harvest



Harvest is over and the summer ended & a  
month or so only more to go.

With respect to <sup>the</sup> Baptist History I can  
only say I wish to see its accomplishment  
but know not who would or could undertake  
it who could perform it in such a manner  
as to appear with credit, perhaps Brother  
Samuel Burkett of Northampton County  
in this State might be adequate to the work  
if he would undertake it, if you have it in  
your power to give Bro Burkett a line on the  
subject perhaps it might be as well to set him  
about it, To the southward of where I live  
I think there has been some very glorious  
revivals & large additions to the churches  
however I have had no very late accounts  
from those parts from which I have frequen-  
tly received intelligence heretofore, I have some things  
I shall become an inhabitant of South Carolina  
next fall where there is a large Ass<sup>n</sup> of

and some able & usefull Ministers, I wish to  
recieve a line from <sup>you</sup> ~~what~~ ever you have is  
in your power or at least can make it  
nient, and expect the same from your  
Affectionate Broo & fellow labourer in  
the gospel of Christ

George Roberts  
February 26<sup>th</sup> 1799

My old Broo James Read  
has left our world a week  
or two past he was the old-  
est minister in our part  
of the world he was con-  
verted & became a preacher  
soon after Brothrs Subal  
Sterns & Dand Marshal  
came preaching in this  
country; I hear he died very  
happy & ended his pilgrimage  
in Joy & peace G R

...ing you a line, I embrace this



Geo: Roberts  
Feb. 26. 1799.

Recd. July 3.  
1799.

Answered July 1799.

Elder Isaac Backus,  
4<sup>th</sup> Wm Middleborough, Massachusetts  
Barnstable

And Mr<sup>r</sup> As it has been long since I heard  
from you, or have had an opportunity of  
sending you a line, I embrace this as  
probable one by Mr<sup>r</sup> Parame, — I am  
still endeavouring to labour in my poor  
manner in that worthy cause, I embarked  
near 30 years ago, but I am not so  
happy as to enjoy a revival of late, as  
in the other places where Divine Goodness  
is pleased to work, I hear of uncommon  
gatherings in the States of Kentucky  
& Tennessee, — Meetings are lively for  
most part, in some parts rather pro-  
longing, I wish you better times and  
that you may enjoy much of the  
Divine presents thro' life and eminent-  
ly so in Death, write to me when you  
you



Have opportunity, and communicate to  
me all the good news in your power,  
I should be glad to know whether the work  
still goes on in the Northern States where  
it flourish'd a few years ago, I think I  
was receiv'd as much as I have been lately  
a few weeks ago, as I was riding from a meet-  
ing I met a man from Kentucky who said  
he saw 28 baptis'd in a day some small time  
before if there had been 68 baptis'd in  
one day, that it might spread in to every  
dark and destitute place

My love to all who fear God and believe  
me to be your bro & fellow labourer in  
the Gospel of Christ

Geo Roberts

May 4<sup>th</sup> 1806

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Elder Isaac Bachus

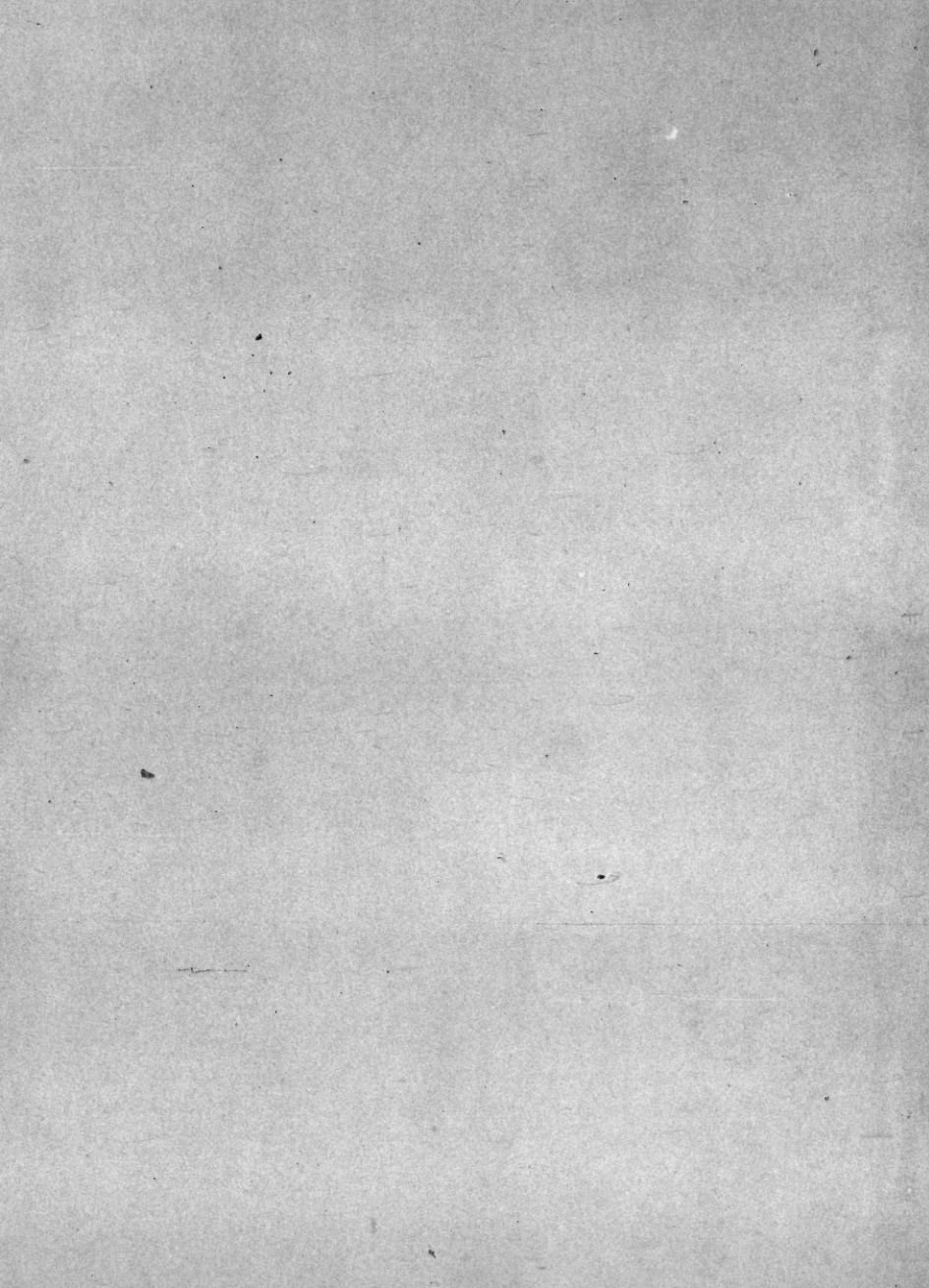
Middleborough

Massachusetts

Geo. Folger  
May 4. 1801.  
Recd. Am<sup>d</sup> 26. 1802.  
JRS.







Bridgewater December 12: 1771

Dear Brother, In the faith and order  
of the gospel, I embrace this opportu-  
nity to commit a few lines to your  
inspection ~~concerning~~ <sup>of the following</sup>  
matter. viz. The church at Mashfield  
hath sent to me, for my assistance in  
attending to difficulties which hath rose  
among them. And likewise hath left it  
discretionary with me, to send for you.  
And when I come to look into the  
matter, I thought it necessary to  
send for you, And if it is possible  
I intreat of you, to give your attendance.  
Next tuesday, is the day which we mean  
to attend. George Roberson —

---



Geo: Robinson;  
Dec. 12. 1791.  
Re: same night.  
8. 23.  
Massfield.

New York May 19<sup>th</sup> 1790

Sir

Enclosed is a Letter for you from  
Doctor Rippon of London and likewise by this  
conveyance is a paper parcel of Books from the  
above Gentleman are in hopes they will arrive  
to your safe understanding that this was the most  
direct way of sending them have delivered them to  
Mr. of Capt Inyer who has promised to for-  
ward them to you immediately on his Arrival  
for freight and Duty I have paid here which  
amounts to one Dollar when opportunity presents you  
may pay it to Mr. Benson of Providence

I am with respect

Yours Humble Servant

Oliver M. Babster

Zechariah Robbins



Ersk. Robins  
May 19. 1790  
Re. May 29.  
S. 13.

Philadelphia Aug<sup>t</sup> 12. 1774.

Rev. & worthy Friend

I have frequently ponder'd within my  
-self why an Epistolary Correspondence has not previous to this been  
concluded upon betwixt us - however I cannot but impute it to my  
own Neglect or am resolv'd (if agreeable to M<sup>r</sup>. Backus) to keep a rep<sup>t</sup>  
for y<sup>r</sup>. Future our Acquaintance this Way inasmuch as we <sup>are</sup> Depriv'd  
of conversing with one another Face to Face - Thro divine Goodness  
my Family is well tho many around us are sick & Numbers daily ex-  
-pire - Great is y<sup>r</sup>. Necessity of being in a continual Preparation for our  
Departing Hour - Your Appeals to y<sup>r</sup>. Public in Favor of Religious  
Liberty I have duly forwarded to y<sup>r</sup>. subscribers & as y<sup>r</sup>. most of them live  
very remote from this City I have collected as yet but little of y<sup>r</sup>. Money  
when generally collected I will accordingly transmit it either to you  
or M<sup>r</sup>. Manning - Last Friday I received a Letter from M<sup>r</sup>. Manning  
dated May. 31. wherein was Inclosed your Proposal for Printing by sub-  
-scription an History of y<sup>r</sup>. New England Baptists - I am sorry they were  
detain'd so long - I shall use my Endeavors to obtain subscribers - several  
Books are already subscrib'd for & I doubt not of your meeting with good  
success here as y<sup>r</sup>. Baptists in these Parts are greatly rais'd in Probab<sup>l</sup>.  
of their oppress'd Brethren thro your Province - Be pleas'd to let me  
know when I must send you word respecting y<sup>r</sup>. Number of Books want-  
-ed - Pray is y<sup>r</sup>. Relief granted at y<sup>r</sup>. last session of Assembly satisfac-  
-tory to our poor Brethren or not - Do inform me - Is y<sup>r</sup>. Art entirely clear

21 104 Tickets being from the Lottery given



18th Nov 1844

London

My dear Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the  
affairs of the London and Lancashire Bank, and in reply to inform you that the same have been  
forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Yours, &c.  
J. B. Smith

Newport Apr

I plain or is there Presbyterian Court interposed in it. I don't under-stand why our Brethren are oblig'd to appear at a Court to be held in Sept. next in Order for Trials. There seems to be something going wrong yet. Would to God y<sup>e</sup> People of y<sup>e</sup> Bay Government may learn truth & dom from y<sup>e</sup> sermons where with they are now visit'd. Is there Evil in y<sup>e</sup> City, Town or Country or y<sup>e</sup> Lord hath not done it.

The Bearer of this Letter is y<sup>e</sup> Rev. M. W. Hanks, a Fellow L-learner in y<sup>e</sup> Gospel & y<sup>e</sup> L<sup>t</sup>, he visits y<sup>e</sup> eastern Association as a Messenger from our's.

The Deadness among us with Respect to Religion is awfully great. Here or there a few are gathered in. Lately I baptised a young Man who was brought up a Roman Catholic, his Parents still continue in that Faith, y<sup>e</sup> young Man is a shining Christian.

Dear Sir. Can't you so order Matters as to pay us a visit in the western Province. Do try to come to Philad<sup>a</sup>. there are many who want much to see you. they love you for your Writings.

Remember me to M<sup>r</sup> Backus & of  
From Dear Brother, yours  
in y<sup>e</sup> precious Jesus.

William Rogers

To The Rev. Isaac Backus.

P.S. A Brother wants to know whether he can have all your Works bound together. If so. The Price of them. Likewise whether he can have all or any of your Works separately. If he can. The Price of them separately.

M<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Davis wrote a Letter some time past to M<sup>r</sup> Skillman of Boston relative to our oppressed Brethren. he would be glad to hear of our Gen<sup>d</sup> Assembly to raise a

+ whether Mr Skillman has received it



Wm. Rogers  
Fall, Aug. 12, 1771  
Philadelphia

Sept. 7.  
1771.

Dr  
The Rev & Isaac Backus

Dear Sir by the Rev.  
William Brewster.  
New Middleborough  
New England.

Dear Sir

Newport July 12 1703 -

I have taken the Liberty to Inclose you  
13 Cards of Tickets from N<sup>o</sup>. 1369. to N<sup>o</sup>. 1472 Inclusive  
all 104 Tickets being from the Lottery granted  
by our Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly to raise a sum towards building  
a new Meeting house for the Baptist Society in  
this place - the Inclosed Schemes will Inform you  
the particulars proposed by the Lottery - & as the  
Rev<sup>d</sup> Gardner Thurston will write more explicit  
by this conveyance shall refer you to his Letter  
for every Information - We please Sir to Direct  
these in your Quarter so as to Effect a safe  
& speedy sale & if you could Dispose of more we shall  
probably have them on hand if Apply'd for soon  
the Directors Design pushing the sale of the Tickets  
Wish Sir for your Caution -

I am with respect & Esteem.

Res<sup>d</sup> Sir

Your Hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Jos Rogers

I propos'd sending some to  
the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Thine but conclude  
it best to have them all under y<sup>r</sup> Direction &  
have sent 56 more from 1944 to 1999 - Inclusive



John Rogers' letter  
July 12. 1783

Recd. Aug. 3.

9. 23.

98  
Rev Sir Newport April 16 1784  
We have not of late heard what  
success you meet in the sale of the Tickets  
I sent you last fall - The Committee have  
Directed to have all the Tickets returned by  
the 20<sup>th</sup> of May that are then Unsold if  
you have any left at that time be pleased  
to send them but hope you will complete  
the sale before then - We propose  
drawing the beginning of June -

In behalf of the Directors  
I am Rev Sir  
Most Respectfully  
Your Obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Jos Rogers



Jo. Rogers  
Apr. 16. 1884  
Rec. May 2.  
J. B.

Philadelphia Nov. 7. 1874

My dear Brother—

This General brings you the melancholy News  
of y<sup>r</sup>. Death of our beloved Fellow Labourer Daniel Frazier— he died on  
Thursday Night last at y<sup>r</sup>. Small Pox, which he caught at y<sup>r</sup>. Time  
of our Association, at y<sup>r</sup>. Place where he lodged— On Saturday, his Remains  
were deposited in our Ground—he was in a sweet Frame of Mind  
during his Illness & departed in y<sup>r</sup>. Faith— O what a Loss to y<sup>r</sup>. Baptist  
Israel in Virginia!— God almighty make it up & prepare his dear  
Wife & seven Children to receive y<sup>r</sup>. Heavy Message— The Words he  
left me to preach from after his Disease you may find in Psalm

73. 25, 26. Wm. Rogers—

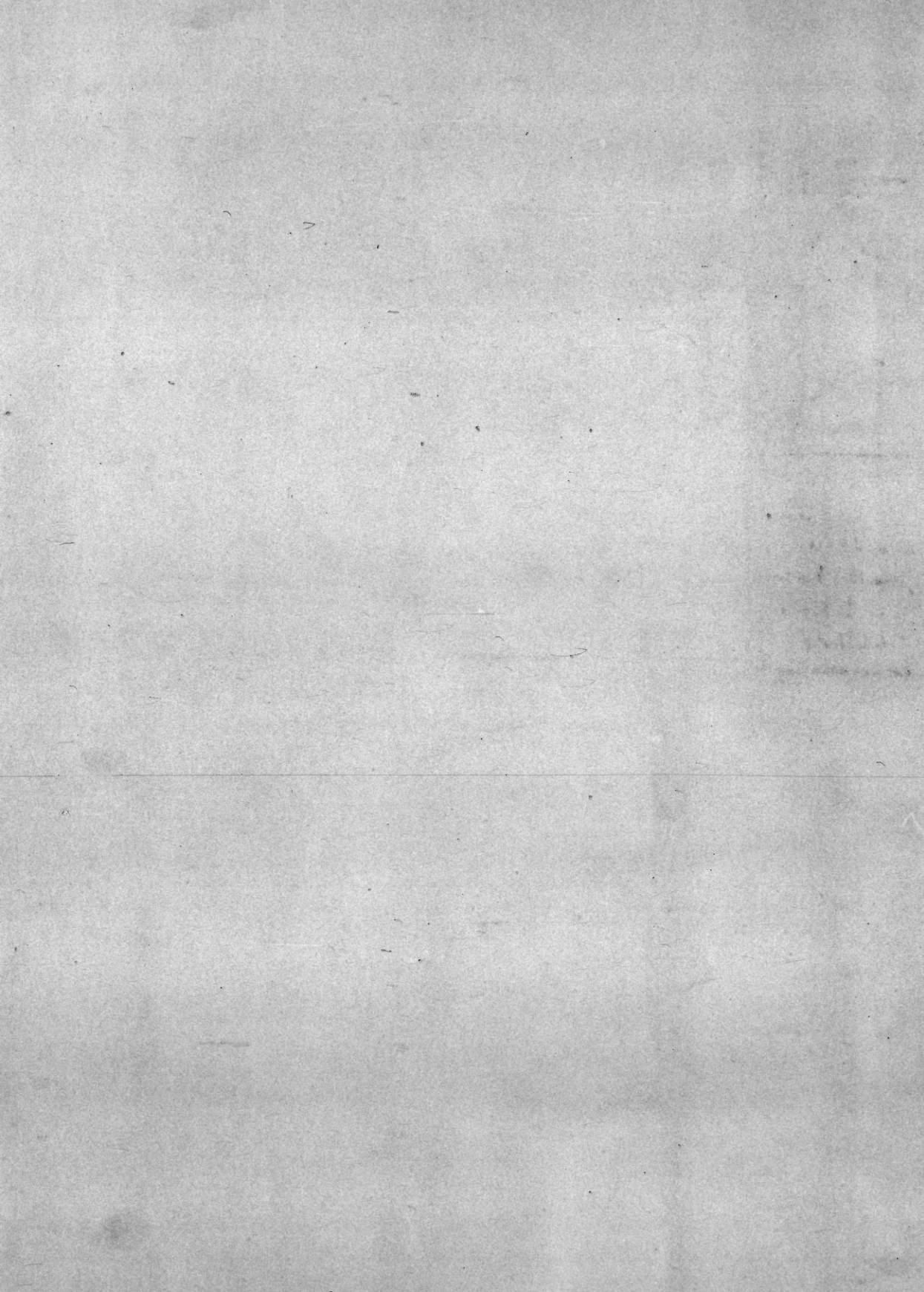


Wm. Rogers (1844)  
Nov. 7. 1844.

—

To The Rev. Isaac Backus

—





Philad<sup>a</sup>. Nov. 30. 1775.

Rev<sup>d</sup> & Dear Sir—

Yours by M<sup>rs</sup> Winchester, M<sup>rs</sup> Rogers received while I was at Baltimore in Maryland on a Visit, from whence having return'd the last Week & observing the Contents of your kind Letter, embrace y<sup>e</sup> first Opportunity in answering the same— Your Reflections on the Prevalence of Sickness in the Country, <sup>around you</sup> & the Preservation of our Army in the Field, <sup>at y<sup>e</sup> same time</sup> are just & worthy of Observation— "Clouds & Darknes surround about him, Righteousness & Judgment are y<sup>e</sup> habitation of his Throne"

You may well enquire, Dear Sir, why I did not according to Agreement call & see you when in New England— I dare say you will not blame but readily excuse me upon hearing my Reasons— 1<sup>st</sup> I went to New England much sooner than I expected to when I had the Pleasure of your Company in this City— 2<sup>dly</sup> My Hurry to get there & then back again was exceedingly great, M<sup>rs</sup> Rogers being at that Time confin'd to her Chamber— 3<sup>dly</sup> When I arriv'd in Newport, y<sup>e</sup> strange Alteration of things in my Native Country & the amazing Distress of the Inhabitants, damp'd my Spirits very much, yea, so much as almost to unfitt me for Company— 4<sup>thly</sup> Received a Letter from M<sup>rs</sup> Rogers, acquainting me she with the Child were very unwell & intreating my speedy Return— I visited scarcely any Body, being in New England but about 3 Weeks in all & 2 of them was oblig'd to be in Newport— It may be that

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a title or header.

Main body of handwritten text, appearing as a list or series of entries, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is faint and mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.



send 2 or 3 Doren over & above I don't doubt but that they will feel  
Friends in General are well. M<sup>rs</sup> Rogers joins me in love to self and M<sup>rs</sup>  
Bachus in our Com<sup>ts</sup> present their hearty Regards to you. From, Rev:  
& dear fr<sup>ds</sup> your's in Jesus M<sup>rs</sup> Rogers

1776.

before me I  
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ld M<sup>rs</sup> Smith's  
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in Private  
Dear fir, these  
Contention a  
exclusions e  
do not thro

Philad<sup>a</sup> Nov. 30. 1775.

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The Rev<sup>d</sup> Isaac Backus

in Middleborough

To J. Lane of the  
Rev. James Manning

New England

Philip & Son. 1775.

*Theodore Roosevelt*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above named matter. I am sorry to hear that you are unable to visit us at present, but I trust you will be able to do so at some future date. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
 Yours, &c.  
 J. M. Smith



I have already said more than enough & that you do by one Means or another  
 think that I acted inconsistent with true Friendship or Brotherly Love  
 in not visiting Middleborough — In your Letter you say —  
 "The Agents of my Agency you may learn something of by our Pro-  
 ceedings" — The Minutes have never as yet come to hand, wishing  
 to know what you have sent to the Comtee I have seen, we purpose  
 to have a Meeting on the Occasion — I cannot say what I think  
 of the Opinion of some with Respect to y<sup>e</sup> Baptist Congress —  
 as I have not as yet examin'd into it's Propriety — you must for-  
 give me for excuse my Silence on the head — Does it not favor  
 an Entanglement? — I only ask the Question! We want much to  
 know of the Result of the Petition! It would be the height of  
 wisdom for the Day Assembly to hear the Prayer thereof —

Two or three Weeks I forwarded you an Association Letter & Minutes  
 with this I send you 2 more Copies to Dispose of as you see fit —

By y<sup>e</sup> same you will take Notice that £10. 15. 6 our Currency  
 has been collected for our suffering Brethren in New England  
 & deliver'd to W. Stillman, which was forwarded by W. Manning.

What you intimate in Relation to Father Smith, his Horse &c  
 I purpose to mention to Mr. Davis & the Comtee when they meet —

By y<sup>e</sup> way I have an Advertisement in the Public Papers I now  
 transmit you my Subscription Paper for your History —  
 hope you may receive it timely — wish that I had obtained  
 more — It would not be unacceptable if the Subscribers Names  
 were published in the latter Land End of the History. Mr. Rogers  
 joins me in best respects to yourself & Mr. Backus Frombe Rogers.





Philad<sup>a</sup>. Feb<sup>y</sup> 6. 1776.

Dear Sir

Your's of Dec: 30<sup>th</sup> now lies before me. I thank you for y<sup>r</sup>. Association Minutes which I have deliver'd as directed. Since I wrote you last our Comtee have not met neither can I tell you when they will tho' my Solicitation has not been wanting. The important Concerns of y<sup>r</sup>. Nation engages almost the whole Attention of y<sup>r</sup>. Publick so that other Matters even what appertains to Religion give place too much. One thing which makes the Comtee so indifferent about Meeting is I believe the great Improbability of our being made Instrumental of doing any good. — Your Letter I read to M<sup>r</sup>. Davis, M<sup>r</sup>. Jones &c who seem much pleas'd at what you have already obtain'd, we hope you have presented a Bill for The Redress of Grievances free from y<sup>r</sup>. least Compliment & that it will be granted by those noted Sons of Liberty upon y<sup>r</sup>. Foundation of Right & not Favor. — I made mention several Times of old W. Smith's Affair respecting his House to M<sup>r</sup>. Davis. he is a good <sup>dearly</sup> Troubled but what can be Done. as for y<sup>r</sup>. Society they did nothing for you or him. all that was given either of you was made up by a few of us in Private. —

We are in these Parts awfully Dead & Stupid. Dear Sir, there is scarcely y<sup>r</sup>. Appearance of Religion, where Strife & Contention among Professors predominate what can we expect but Confusions & every evil Work & when those who are Teachers of Others do not those Things which altogether correspond with a Christian Character, what can we look for? — My Prayer is "From a Thirst after Popularity & y<sup>r</sup>. Applause of y<sup>r</sup>. Multitude, good Lord deliver me"

Rev. & dear friend

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly a letter or manuscript page.]*

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At Hopewell in New Jersey God's Spirit has begun a Work upon  
the hearts of many - several have Received Comfort & are now  
Rejoicing in it & may it spread far & wide! - Mr. Davis  
is in a very poor state of health - last week with his Family he  
moved out of Town better than 40 Miles into the Conventory - he is  
an Israelite indeed! we have but few such Men, may their Num-  
ber increase! - Next Thursday I set out for New York, from thence  
I shall go to Lyons Farms, expect to be from my Family 3 or 4 weeks:

Should have been glad had you intimated when you expected your  
History would have been out - how you will get them to Philad? I  
know not - Write me soon & attest, in so doing, you will greatly  
oblidge, Rev. & Dear Sir, yours in Jesus - Rogers.

Mr. Jones presents his cordial  
Respects to you -

Wm  
Thmas

Rev. & Dear Sir

The Revd. Isaac Backus

Recd. May 15

1733.

Middleborough

New England.



Phil<sup>a</sup> February 19. 79.

Rev: & Dear Sir—

When I parted with you at Providence I made all possible haste to Canaan where I arrived till the last of November. I Repaired to this City with Leave of Absence for 2 Months— Upon my Arrival I found that your 2 Publications in Powers's Paper of Octob<sup>r</sup>. last which I had forwarded to our Friend Mr. Davis had considerably Increat<sup>d</sup> the Attention of the Advocates for Religious Liberty.

You must therefore Conclude that the Pamphlets which I had by me were greedily Caught up, Instead of the small Number of 6 I wish'd for 200 Copies as I then could readily have Dispos'd of them at  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a Dollar y<sup>e</sup> piece. The 2 Publications in the News Papers have since been Reprint- ed in the Pennsylvania Packet, the last of which was finish'd about 10 Days since— What the Public think I know not as Reg<sup>d</sup> in General seem very silent— If any Remarks are made by the Persecuting Party, depending upon it they will be answer'd— The Occasion of their being Reprinted here was the Result of mature Deliberation & I doubt not it will be a great Service— Congress are on the Spot and the Delegates of Massachusetts must feel sensible Remorse— Your Proposals concerning the History I mentioned to Mr. Davis & wou'd agreeable, we have waited Impatiently for their Arrival a long Time but as yet we are Destitute of them— Pray Inform us the Reason as they I think would be Rapid.

Be so kind as to write often & Direct for me in Philad<sup>a</sup> as I shall Tarry in the City till business being Order'd by the Commander in Chief to attend the Troops quarter'd here to whom I officiate every Lord's Day Morning - Religion in this Quarter is at a very low Ebb, Vital Piety has seemingly bid us Adieu and even Morality almost Lost it's Influence, Mankind at large are apparently swallow'd up in Dissipation Extravagance & Folly - Every Denomination of Christians (so called) attend too much to the Maxims of Politicians Instead of the Precepts of Jesus - When shall the Time to favor Lion over the Jet Time fully Come! In Addition to our Civil Commotions a Famine begins to stare us in the Face, what the Inhabitants of some of the States particularly the Poor will do for Bread before next Harvest God only knows - Amazing Quantities of Wheat in Virginia Maryland Delaware & Pennsylvania have been Destroyed by a kind of poisonous Fly, Flour in this City has sold for 32 & 36 Dollars y<sup>t</sup>. Hundred 40 Dollars & above has been ask'd - If these Judgments had a proper Effect upon us how pleasing would be the Thought! The Necessaries of Life are at a most Extravagant Rate - Good Beef 1 Dollar y<sup>t</sup>. Pound Butter 2 Dollars - Potatoes 6 Dollars y<sup>t</sup>. Bushell - Cherry Wood 32 Dollars y<sup>t</sup>. Cord - Oak 24 - Milk 1/2 Dollar y<sup>t</sup>. quart &c &c We may with Virgil Cry out O Tegyrra Ch Times -

The public Papers throughout this City Teem weekly with Quarrelsome Harangues among the Higher



Order of Patriots, which I dare say the Boston Prints announce  
to you. An old Adage filices me, viz, When Rogues fall  
out; Honest Men come at the Tumble<sup>22</sup> — Some very Important  
News has Reached Congress from Europe, what it is we  
are not yet Inform'd, however it is of a grand Nature and  
will according to Report when Discov'd be the Cause of  
great Joy — May It prove the Foundation for Peace —

Since my Return to Philad<sup>a</sup> I have not seen Either Mr. S  
Jones or Mr. Edwards but hear they are Both well —

Thro' Mercy my Wife & Son are in good Health, I moved  
them from the Country to Town last Week — Mr. R. S. Jones  
with Mr. Davis send their Love to you. Remember  
me affectionately to Mr. Backus & Family not For-  
getting my old Acquaintance the Rev. Mr. Nelson —

From, Rev. of Dear Sir, your unworthy Brother.

Rev. Mr. Backus.

W. Rogers

The Revd Isaac Backus

Recd. Nov. 15.

1779.

Middleborough

New England.

Wm. Burges's Lett.

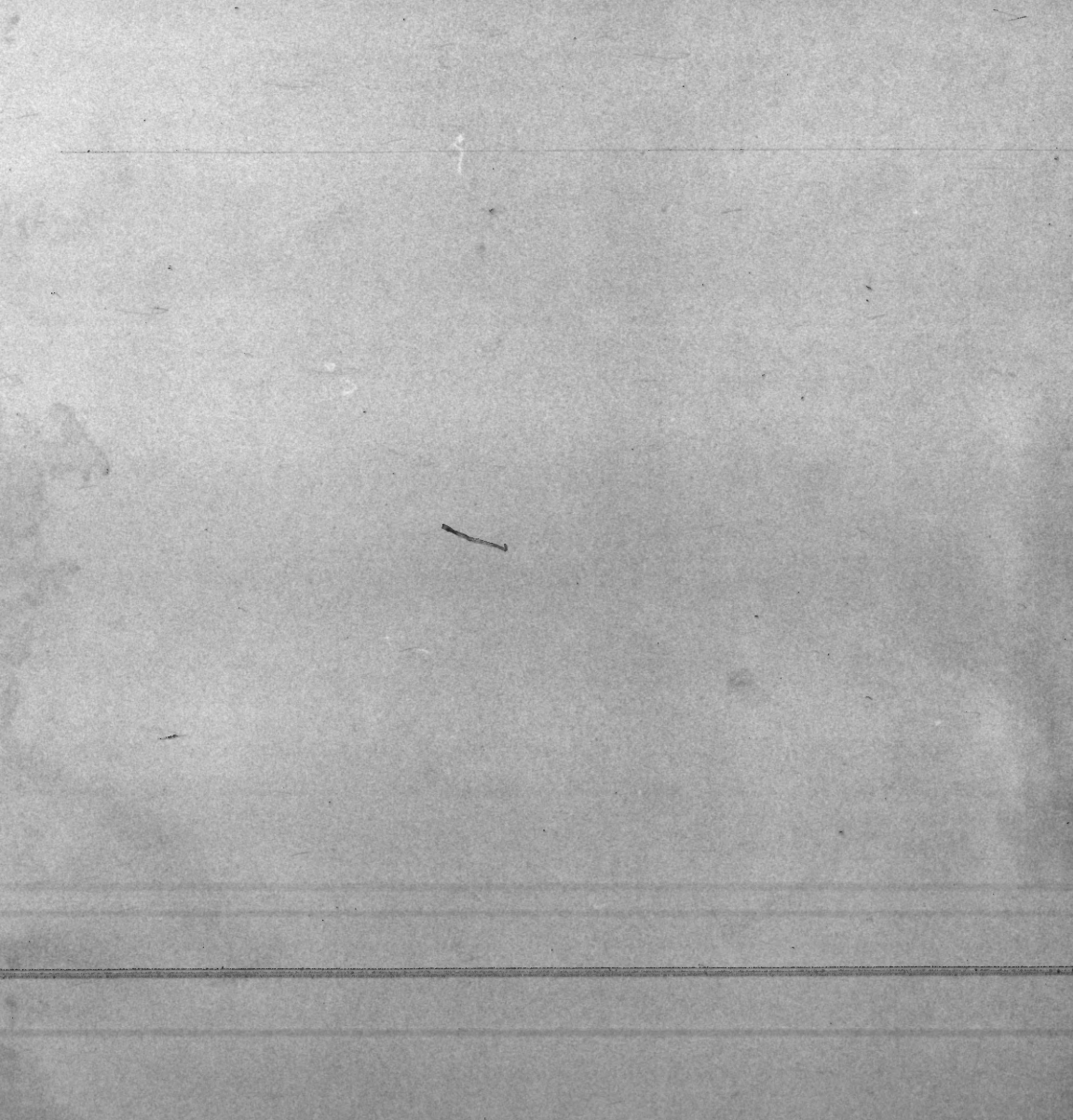
Feb. 19. 1779.

Recd. Nov. 3.

at Providence, R.I.

Wm. Burges's Lett.









Phil<sup>a</sup> May 29. 1779.

Rev. & Dear fr<sup>d</sup>

Your Letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> April forwarded by  
Post came safe to Hand, for the particular Information therein  
Communicated I am much obliged to you, I think upon the  
whole the Tyranny of the Pedobaptists must soon cease in  
the State of Massachusetts, If Mr. Stillman in his Publications  
had subscrib'd his own Name Instead of appearing under the  
Signature of Milton it would have pleas'd his Friends in this  
City much better — Your History, 50 Copies of which you  
mention to have sent by Water I am sorry to say have never  
as yet arrived, if the Vessel fail'd she must have been Taken,  
We should be glad to know what her Name is & whether  
a Schooner or Sloop, however None of any kind have arrived  
for many Weeks past from Boston, so that in all Probability  
we never shall see the Books — We wish to know whether those  
you propos'd sending by Land are on their Way, their Arrival  
would be very acceptable — In 3 or 4 Days I Expect to  
set out to join my Brigade which with several Others are  
gone on what is called the Secret Expedition against y<sup>e</sup> Indian.  
Gen<sup>l</sup> Sullivan has the supreme Command, I hope that a Pro-  
vident God will Crown the Expedition with Success and  
bles all Those who go on so Dangerous a Tour with Life, Health  
& a safe Return — I Expect to be absent several Months you  
will therefore for the Future Direct your Letters to our

real Christi

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed sale of the land in the town of New York, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. The Board will hold a meeting on the 15th inst. at 10 o'clock A.M. at the City Hall, and I have no doubt that you will be present. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
 Your obedient servant,  
 J. C. Smith, Jr.  
 City Clerk.



mutual Friend Mr. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Davis, who will at all Times be very glad  
to hear from you - The Account you give me of a Revival of  
Religion at Rehoboth & among your Flock be was Exce-  
dingly pleasing, I hope that it continues to spread and that  
its benign Influence may ~~be felt even the~~ <sup>be felt even the</sup> ~~Dead State of Penn<sup>a</sup>.~~ <sup>Dead State of Penn<sup>a</sup>.</sup> - In these Parts we are uncommonly <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~  
Lukewarm & worse for among Those calling themselves <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~  
Christians a spirit of jangling has taken Place utterly <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~  
unbecoming Those who profess to know Jesus & Consequently <sup>Evil</sup> ~~Evil~~  
are Bound to Obey his Lawes - I am much obliged to you, my

Dear F<sup>r</sup>, for your truly seasonable Advice for it is indeed <sup>them</sup> ~~them~~  
my Wish to work for God, perhaps if my Lot was Cast near <sup>into</sup> ~~into~~  
you & other Christian Friends in New England I might feel <sup>prop</sup> ~~prop  
more Engaged than I now am - but here in this City I <sup>am</sup> ~~am  
assure you that I meet with the greatest Tryals among <sup>such</sup> ~~such  
Those whose Duty it is to take me by the Hand - For their <sup>by</sup> ~~by~~  
Neglect & Ill Timed Policy I am afraid Ruin awaits them~~~~~~

Thos. Messey my Family which consists of a Wife & one Child <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~  
are well - Mr. Rogers joins me in Cordial Esteem for you & <sup>at</sup> ~~at~~  
Mr. Backus -

That the great Jehovah may continue <sup>fin</sup> ~~fin  
to crown your Labors with abundant success is the heart  
Wish of, Rev: F<sup>r</sup>, your most obliged & very Affectionate Friend~~

Rogers

Wm. Rogers (Ctts.)  
May 29. 1779.

12

Recd. Apr. 2.  
1779.

Perd & Isaac Packard

Middleborough.

Per Post.

To leave of Mch<sup>25</sup> 1779 and  
John Rogers - Account<sup>ly</sup>

Providence.



Philad<sup>a</sup>. Octob<sup>r</sup>. 24. 1780

Dear Sir

Yours yr. W. Winchester of

Aug<sup>t</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> came safe to hand, the contents are Cal-  
culated to afford the greatest consolation to every  
real Christian - God grant that the good Work begun  
in New England may spread far & wide - Oh that  
these middle States may likewise Experience a  
happy Revival in the Things of Religion and that  
there may be a general Turning to God both of Minis-  
ters & People.

In the Month of Aug<sup>t</sup>. I was for  
a few Days only, in Providence, I wanted much to  
see you but Could not procure Time, however I  
wrote to you Informing that your Histories &c. as  
by Capt. Flinn arrived safe & that agreeable to  
your Instructions I had consulted with several  
Friends respecting the Price who advised the selling  
of them as you sent them at 1 Doll<sup>r</sup>. or the exchange  
& for the Purchasers to get them bound as they saw  
fit - A Few of Polity & Honesty I sold at 9<sup>¢</sup>. this  
Currency and Gov<sup>t</sup> & Liberty at 6<sup>¢</sup>. - The Former  
I have now fix'd at 1<sup>¢</sup> - and the Latter at 9<sup>¢</sup>.  
23 of the Histories are dispos'd off, as they were

paid for in Continental when the Exchange was Different  
I shall here particularize the whole that no Mistake  
may Ensur —

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 6 at 60 . . . . . is . . . . .  | Dollars 360 |
| 12 at 70 . . . . . is . . . . . | 840         |
| 5 at 75 . . . . . is . . . . .  | 375         |
|                                 | <hr/>       |
|                                 | 1575        |

To Capt. Flinn for Freight.  
of the Box. 100 Dls

To Porter . . . . . 8 —

108

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1467 Dls

Which sum for the said 23 Histories I now forward  
to Rev. W. Manning according to your Desire. I  
shall settle for the Pamphlets when the whole are  
sold and do my utmost to get off the Remainder  
of the Histories —

It is surprizing to think that the Ruling Party  
in your State should be so lost to their Feelings as  
Men as to Deprive Others of that Liberty which  
they themselves Enjoy — When the sacred Rights of  
Conscience are Inveaded it is high Time for the  
oppressed to look about them! — Last Week we  
held our Association & if it was not for the amazing  
Declension of Religion among us our Intericue  
would have been very comfortable — The public

This sum amounting two dollars 1780, is at present



Immediately commenced hereupon, which were fine

Letter sent from your Body to Our's and your  
private One to one together with what Mr. Win-  
chester made known afforded much Joy & Cause  
of Praise. I Inclose herewith a Copy of our  
Minutes for you & a few others for your Friends.  
In Return please to favor me with your printed  
Minutes.

Rev. Oliver Hart from Charlestown  
is now with me, he is a great & good Preacher!  
His Family & Property are in Possession of y.<sup>e</sup> Enemy  
and when he will be able to Return to them again  
is altogether uncertain. He is a most animating  
Christian. Mr. Winchester is fix'd in this City  
for one year, I hope he may prove Instrumental  
in Doing much Good! Be so kind as to Con-

tinue writing to me & you may Depend upon  
punctual Replys for nothing affords me more  
Satisfaction next to seeing my Christian Friends  
than to hear from them & that frequently.

Mr. Rogers joins in Regards to you  
& your's. From, my Dear Sir, your Real Friend  
& unworthy Brother in the Gospel of Christ.

N.B. Mr. Hart sends  
his Love.

Mr. Rogers

John Rogers  
Cells Oct. 26. 1780

Recd at Providence

Dec. 13. 1781

Received of

Mr. Rogers  
on Jan. 6. 1781

He got 2/1781 at Providence  
I received of Mr. Rogers  
£4. 16. 0 in Silver  
which with 7 given to him, are to  
Mr. Edmunds & are to  
Michaelson's Library, with 42  
that are purchased for.



Phil<sup>a</sup> April 21. 1781

Rev<sup>d</sup> & Dear Sir

Y<sup>r</sup>. of Jan<sup>y</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup> came to hand this  
Giving for which Receive my Thanks - The Intelligence you  
give of the glorious Work of God in the Kingdom of the  
Living New Churches of our Denomination is very Pleasing  
(wondering) - May the Work Increase & all who profess to  
know the Truth live worthy of their Vocation that the  
Religion of Jesus may not thro' their Means be Evil spoken  
off - Would to God, my Dear Sir, I had it now in my Power  
to Return you the like News - But a Contrary Theme must  
be my Subject - M<sup>r</sup>. Winchester has been Instrumental of  
Doing more Mischief among us than you can possibly  
Imagine - As I have written largely upon this Subject  
to M<sup>r</sup>. Manning & Mordecai Thurston & Requested Each of them  
to Inform you of y<sup>t</sup>. Particulars it will be unnecessary for  
me to go thro' the whole again - At a very Early Period

last Winter it was Discover'd that M<sup>r</sup>. Winchester was some  
how wrong as to the Doctrines of y<sup>t</sup>. Gospel - His Holding y<sup>t</sup>.  
Principle of universal Restoration of Bad Men & Angels  
was ~~found out~~ <sup>found out</sup> - Proceedings of a Private Nature

Immediately commenced hereupon, which were finally  
brought to our Meeting for Business the 5<sup>th</sup> of March -

When after much Debating Part. protested against the  
Doctrine & Part Declar'd in favor of Winchester - As the  
Protesters became possess'd of the Keys of y<sup>t</sup>. House - The  
others broke it open & Continue still to meet there with  
their meek Leader - The Protesters having called  
for a Council of Ministers on this melancholy occasion,  
who arrived here last week - see yours of Na

they drew up the following in Writing - Phil<sup>a</sup> April 3. 1785.

We the Subscribers being called upon by the Baptist Church in this Place to give our Advice & Counsel to a Committee Chosen by the contending Parties in said Church Respecting ~~what way we best to be taken in their present unhappyl situation.~~

Ave of Opinion - That the Confession of Faith adopted by y<sup>e</sup>. Baptist Churches of the Association usually meeting annually in Phil<sup>a</sup> contains a summary of Gospel Truths received by us as a Denomination of Christians - That y<sup>e</sup>. Doctrine of y<sup>e</sup>. universal Restoration of Bad Men & Angels from Hell is a fundamental Deviation from y<sup>e</sup>. above Articles of Faith - That Those of y<sup>e</sup>. said Church who have adopted the said Error have Departed from y<sup>e</sup>. Foundation Principles of y<sup>e</sup>. Baptist Society - And - That Those of the said Church who have protested against the above Erroneous Doctrine are the Baptist Church in this Place - And Whereas M<sup>r</sup>. Elhanan Winchester did yesterday before the Church & in our Presence acknowledge his holding the above mentioned Error, he ought therefore to be Dismissed from further Services in this Church & we also Recommend to them to seek other supplies without Delay as y<sup>e</sup>. only probable Means for Restoring Peace & Order in the Church - Signed - Oliver Hart. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Jones.

David Jones. W<sup>m</sup>. Van Horn. John Boggs.

The same Evening the whole Church was called together & the above was Read - The Protesters unanimously adopted it - The others as unanimously Rejected it & that with the highest Marks of Contempt - Many Reasonable Proposals were then made by the Protesters, all of which the others objected to & finally we broke up in much Confusion - On



the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst we had one more general Church Meeting -  
When after a great Deal of Time spent in vain finding  
W<sup>m</sup>. Winchester's Adherents Exceedingly Obstinate - Col:  
Miles in y<sup>e</sup>. Name & on the Behalf of y<sup>e</sup>. Protesters De-  
clared themselves not to be of us & pronounced us to be y<sup>e</sup>.  
Baptist Church of Phil<sup>a</sup>. without a parting & making  
known that we meant in Every Respect to act accor-  
dingly - This was Done in a solemn formal Manner -  
See Isa: 52. 11. Jer: 51. 6. 2 Cor: 6. 17, 18. 2 Thes: 3. 6. Rev: 18. 4.  
1 Cor: 11. 19. 1 Tim: 1. 19, 20. D. 4. 1, 2. D. 6. 3-5. Titus 3. 10.  
2 Pet: 2. 1, 2. - Our Number is at present between 60 &  
70 - We have sent for a Minister & Expect shortly to be  
supplied, a Person totally Disinterested - We have it in  
Contemplation to publish our Proceedings for the Satisfaction  
of Christians in General especially of our own Denominat<sup>ion</sup>.  
throughout the United States -

W<sup>m</sup>. Winchester's Party  
will keep forcible Possession of the house where he on every  
Sabbath & frequently in the Week besides attempts to sup-  
port his System - All who preach never Ending Punish-  
ment to the Wicked, he Represents as Ministers of y<sup>e</sup>. Letter  
& not of y<sup>e</sup>. Spirit - He Ridicules almost in Every Sermon,  
the Perpetuity of Hell Torments & holds up to Public  
View a future State of misery as a mere Purgatory.  
Some of his Followers have pray'd that the Punishment of y<sup>e</sup>.  
Devils may be shortned & that they may be brought  
speedily to submit to the glorious Redeemer - The Infatuated  
Man in addition to his other Heresies has lately Begun  
to Refine on the Satisfaction of Chr<sup>ist</sup>. - he says - Jesus did  
not Die in our Room & Stead but simply for our Good - that  
the Believer as he suffers with Sin, suffers more than Chr<sup>ist</sup>. -

who suffer'd without it - Thus Does he strike at the very Foundation of all Religion by Endeavoring to lessen the People's View of y<sup>t</sup> grand Atonement - To follow him thro' all his Labyrinth of Absurdities is Impossible within the short Compass of a Letter - An Acquaintance with Jacob Berners - M<sup>r</sup> Law's & One Stonehouse's Works will unfold to you M<sup>r</sup> Winchester's Plan &c - How long his Stay will be here is not known - Were he an Honest Man he would at once take his Departure - as he has Repeatedly Declar'd his Intention of going away upon the first Uneasiness - Without he is publicly Discour'd by the Baptists at Large such an Opinion will be cast upon us as a Denomination as will not be Easily wip'd off -

Your Request that your History's should for the future be sold for Hard Money shall be strictly Comply'd with - I should be glad to know whether the Price of 1 hard Dollar as they are is sufficient - The Goodness of God manifested towards you in the year Past in affording you such Strength of Body & Liberty of Soul when travelling so much & preaching so often is very Remarkable for which I Dare say your Heart is Replete with Gratitude - The Time is fast approaching when my Dear Father in the Ministry shall be abundantly Rewar'd - I Expect in a few Weeks to set out for the Southern Army - Thro' Mercy myself & Family are well & join in sincere Regards to yourself, M<sup>r</sup> Backus & Family From, Rev: & Dear F<sup>r</sup>, your affectionate Friend and Unworthy Brother — *W. Rogers*

Rev: M<sup>r</sup> Backus.

Rec: at Providence May 23<sup>d</sup>. J. B.



Philad.<sup>a</sup> June 4. 1781  
Dear Father in the Gospel —

By Doct.<sup>r</sup> Drown of Providence  
who arrived here last week I rec<sup>d</sup>. your's of May  
18<sup>th</sup> together with a Copy of your late Publications  
Mr. Manning mentions your requesting him to send  
me a Copy for each Minister who compos'd the Council,  
Mr. Boggs & Mr. Powell have both been omitted,  
Mr. S. Jones has already got his & I shall Imme-  
diately forward Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Hart's, D. Jones's & Vanhorne's  
As Printing is very high in this City & all Pamph-  
lets relative to Religion sell pale I think it  
would not answer to Reprint it here as whoever  
undertakes it must advance the Money as I am  
sorry that my worthy Friend Elder Backus should  
suppose that I thought him wanting — either  
in Discernment or Faithfulness in giving Counte-  
nance to Mr. Winchester when in New England — If  
I have let any Expression drop <sup>from my Pen</sup> which carries the  
Idea I am Conscious I did not mean it — No — My  
dear Sir, Your Works bespeak your Fidelity to  
your Lord & Master Jesus Ch<sup>r</sup> and I trust a brilliant  
Crown awaits your Arrival in the Mansions of Love.

It grieves me that Mr. Manning should be so severe  
in his Letter to me - A Misunderstanding never Design-  
ed has somehow taken place which a few Lines I  
am sensible must Rectify - Many here wish  
that you had not in your Appendix given the Title of  
"Baptist Minister" to Mr. W. - Once he was so - but  
unless he is much belid he did on yesterday 3 Weeks  
when speaking in the New Quaker Meeting preach  
against Water Baptism - this I have from Report -  
But whether he did or not - Our other Doctrines he  
has certainly rejected - Herewith you will Rec<sup>d</sup>

40 Copies of our Address &c which you are Requested  
to Dispose of as may best answer the End Designed - Our  
Intention is that each Baptist Minister & Baptist Church  
throughout New England may be furnished with a Copy,  
for which Purpose yourself, Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Stillman, Manning  
and Thurston will Respectively have a Bundle - It is  
expected that the Churches will read them Publickly.

As the Constitutions of the several States &c may be  
of particular Use to you I present you ~~also~~ by this  
Opportunity with a late Edition as published by Order  
of Congress - It is surprising that Mr. W. should not



longer ago than July last preach expressly against  
Universal Salvation in W. Stillman's Pulpit, when  
he has told me & many others that it is about  
2 years since he got convince'd thereof, however  
this only helps to Decypher the Mass - You will  
find by our Postscript he is Depriv'd of the Meeting  
House but he still continues in Philad.<sup>a</sup> preaching  
about in Private Houses - As Lawyers are Employ'd  
on both sides we Expect they mean to contend for  
the Property -

Glory to God that the Work among  
you continues, may it spread far and wide -

Love to W.<sup>m</sup> Backus and the Household of  
Faith and Believe me to be yours in the Lord  
N. - Rogers

Mr. Rogers letter  
June 4. 1781.

Recd. Oct. 2.  
1783.

Dear Isaac Backus

Middleborough

State of

Massachusetts Bay

To Samuel Davis:  
Mr. Williams:  
Boston.









Phil<sup>a</sup> Nov: 15, 31~

Rev<sup>d</sup> & Dear Sir~

Inclosed are a couple of copies of our

Minutes~ The Winchesterian Party are about prosecuting

the Meeting House but will undoubtedly prove a futile

attempt, in other Respects every thing remains peaceable~

Should be glad to know whether the Book of Constitutions

the Address were ever Rec<sup>d</sup> by you, pray Inform me when

write~ Since my Return to Philad<sup>a</sup> I have not dispos<sup>d</sup>

single History, I wish People were more dispos<sup>d</sup> for Readings

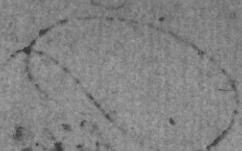
Congratulate you on the late good News relative to the

action of Cornwallis~ may all our Enemies thus fall

With real Esteem I Remain, Dear Sir, your af<sup>l</sup> friend

Friend & affectionate Brother~ Wm. Rogers

Rev. W. Backus~



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Phil<sup>a</sup> Nov: 26. 1782~

Dear Sir~

By the Return of Mr. Manning you undoubtedly heard of my own & Family's safe Arrival in Philad<sup>a</sup> since which our anniversary Association Meeting has been held as you will perceive by the printed Minutes Encl<sup>d</sup>, the Circular letter on N<sup>t</sup>. y<sup>t</sup>. Mediator was compos'd by Mr. Hart & is in my Opinion an exceedingly good Performance~ Agreeable to your Desire I have Examined your Histories & find 31 Copies on hand, 6 of which only are Imperfect as they want the sheet Zz or Pages 361, 368 Inclusive~ 2 sheets of single Z are superfluous, as you may need them for other Volumes I herewith forward them~

Your Pamphlets against the Doctrine of Universal Salvation are more than half sold, when they are all dispos'd of which I think will be soon I will give you an Order on my Brothers for Settlement~ Just before I left Providence I put into Mr. Nicholas Brown's hands for you, David Thomas's Piece against y<sup>t</sup>. same Doctrine which I should wish to know whether you have Rec<sup>d</sup>.~ I have lately visited Coham & Salem Churches in New Jersey, in y<sup>t</sup>. former

the Revival of Religion still continues, I baptized 4 Persons & preached almost every Day to crowded Assemblies, a young Woman of about 16 who gave in her Experience talk'd admirably, it was enough to cause all old Soles to burn afresh - God grant that all Parts of our wicked world may Enjoy the same Showers of divine Grace -

Next Week I mean by y.<sup>r</sup> Permission of Heaven to set out for Baltimore in Maryland in Order to spend a Couple of Months with our Society there, this must not prevent your writing to me as usual as my Family tarries in Phil<sup>a</sup> who, upon the Reception of any Letters, will either forward or take Charge of them till my Return as may best suit -

Last Month I rec<sup>d</sup>. a warm Invitation accompany'd with generous proposals for Settlement in the fourth congregational Ch<sup>h</sup> in Hartford in Connecticut - The singularity of the Invitation considering our different Sentiments would have induc'd me to visit them, had it not been for my previous Engagement to winter at Baltimore - I may see them in the Spring. -

This Day I hear'd that an old Preacher among y.<sup>e</sup> Quakers near Chester Town in this State has written either to some of his private Friends or some of the monthly Meetings that he can no longer with an easy Mind resist the Evidence <sup>of necessity</sup> of



taking of the external Elements of the Lord's Supper, he wishes  
therefore to do it without breaking Fellowship with them in  
any other Particular & hopes they won't with him —

Our Congregation in this City is very small, I'm fearfull  
rather on the Decrease than otherwise — Winchester's Popu-

larity is almost over among the Philadelphians, I Imagine  
he will now betake himself to occasional Excursions into  
the Country as he must have something to keep up his Spirits —

Mr. Thurston writes me word that the Lord has graciously  
appear'd among his People of late, the work is slow & gradual,  
he trusts tho' it is a good Beginning of great Things, I wish  
the dear old Man may not be Disappointed —

Please to present my Christian Love to Mr. Backus and  
believe me to be, Rev. & Dear Sir, your's in the best of Bonds.

Wm. Rogers

Rev. Isaac Backus

John Rogers's Letter.

Nov. 26. 1782.

Recd. Dec. 16. 1783.

p. 23.

Rev. Isaac Backus. —



Philad<sup>a</sup> 30 May 1783 ~

Dear Sir -

Y<sup>r</sup> of March 11<sup>th</sup> came safe to

hand, it's Contents afforded me & a great many of my X<sup>ps</sup>  
Friends no small Comfort, God grant that you may have,  
every Opportunity of writing, such glorious News to Com-  
municate - In this City all is Deadness & Stupidity. ~

The Winter Months I spent in Baltimore (Maryland)  
the Society wished for my Settlement, previous to which I  
proposed another Interview, to this they have objected, &  
as several Circumstances have prevented my Immediate  
Compliance, our Correspondence on that Subject has drop-  
ped - So that in all probability I may see you before  
Fall. ~

Since my Return from Baltimore I have visited  
Cherry twice & preached daily, the first Visit I baptized  
a Woman who had been a regular Member of the Pres-<sup>3</sup>  
byterian Church for almost 18 <sup>years</sup> ~~months~~, she professed Con-  
viction in the Ordinance by a short Address of Mine on  
a Baptismal Occasion some time before, & was in that  
expected to meet, Commencement &c.

Place gather to hear the Word. - Next week by Divine Per-

mission I visit Cape May, shall be absent from home 2 or 3  
Lord's Days, the Spirit of God I understand is at work among  
that People, Oh that my Travelling about may redound to the  
Glory of our Master & the good of Souls. - Your Histories of

am trying by every Means to dispose of, your Pamphlet ag:  
Universal Salvation <sup>are</sup> all to about 40 Copies sold, when we meet  
I will settle with you, in the Interim if you want Money  
please to call on my Brothers & let them know that it is  
my Desire that they pay you on my Account Two half pds.

Our old Friend Mr. Edwards is in Town, he is on his way  
to New York to see his Son, he desires an affectionate Remem-  
brance to you & is very anxious that you would hasten the  
Publication of your 2<sup>d</sup>. Vol: of your useful History. Winchester

has lately buried his 4<sup>th</sup>. Wife, she dyed in Child Bed, having  
soon after their Marriage made over her whole Estate to him,  
By her Death he becomes possessor of near or quite £1000 this  
Currency - As to his Society they keep much about y<sup>e</sup>. same,  
if he don't lose, he certainly does not gain Ground - The  
Troyal about the Meeting house, his Lawyers have had Address



enough to put off till next Sept. - He has lately published  
2 sermons on the Gospel of St. no Cause of Shame. -

By News from England the Rev. Mr. Wallis is no more  
as to this world, he has been dead 4 years. - Herewith

I send you a most laughable, weak Performance, I  
pick'd up at Baltimore, it needs no Comment. - The  
Call from Hartford to me, is renewed, but upon what  
Footings I know not, as my aversion to "Baby Sprinkling"  
continues as strong as ever. -

Mr. Hart is still at  
Hopewell, undetermin'd whether or no he returns to  
Charlestown. - With Christian Regards to Mrs.

Backus, I subscribe myself, Rev: & Dear Sir, your  
Sincere Friend & constant well-wisher.

Wm. Rogers

Rev. Mr. Backus.

expected to meet, Commencement & Apportionment, at the

Wm. Rogers (et al)  
May 30. 1783.

Dec. 24. 3.  
J. D. 3.

Per: Mr. Backus.



Wm. Rogers Letter

Oct. 3. 1783.

Recd. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Providence Oct. 3. 1783

Dear Sir -

I wanted to see you very much

but we have missed of each other, when probably we both expected to meet, Commencement & Association, at the former mine was the Disappointment, at the latter yours; However I should have try'd to have visited Middleborough had I not, at the only convenient Time proposed in my mind for so doing, hear'd of your Journeying into Connecticut, since that it has been out of my Power. - I shall

leave this State somewhere about the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst., I wish you could on your Route to Exeter go by the Way of Newport, I must be there by the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst. & probably before I continue till I get sail for Phil<sup>a</sup> - Granting we

do not see each other, the following was the state of your Books when I left home -

22 Good Copies of the History on hand. 6 ditto Imperfect.

Pamphlets, Govt & Liberty, all sold - Policy & Honesty, a Doz: or more on hand. These I vendd at diff: Prices, which I cannot ~~now~~ ascertain till I get home.

Against Winchester 114 sold  
36 on hand

Copies 150 - 6/3 p? for advertising

Please to Inform me, relative to this last Pamphlet  
your wholesale Price, as some have been retail'd one way  
& some another & it is my choice that you should not  
lose any thing. -

In all matters which you have  
entrusted to me, I have endeavor'd to do the same for  
you as I would have done for myself, I hope my  
superior may act from the same disinterested motive.

Provided you write to me before I leave the State  
direct for Newport - If not, direct for Philad<sup>a</sup> as  
my family still reside there -

I lately saw a  
piece in favor of Infant Rantism by one Strong, assist-  
ed by one Huntington - If you should take  
any notice of it, what think you of the following

Motto - The reputed Strong Man, disarmed,  
tho' another has been called in to his help.

Christian Love to M<sup>r</sup>. Backus - From your Friend &  
Brother. W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers

Oct. 18, and paid \$5.23 late fees me for 114 copies.  
\$4.49 I am for Oct. 18, and paid \$5.23 late fees me for 114 copies.  
\$4.49 I am for Oct. 18, and paid \$5.23 late fees me for 114 copies.









Providence, Oct: 14. 83.

Rev. J. F.

I have already written you, giving an Acc<sup>t</sup> of your Books, provided that Letter should have miscarried, I think it prudent to leave this with Mr. Manning —

August 13<sup>th</sup>. I left Phil<sup>a</sup>.

At which time, there remained in my hands of your Histories — 22 good Copies, 6 Ditto Imperfect.

Pamphlets. Policy & Honesty, sold excepting about 12 or 14. Prices different.

Govt. & Liberty, all sold or dispos'd of. Prices also various.

Ag<sup>t</sup> Winchester — 114 sold, after deducting 6/3 for advertising, On hand 36 — For this last Treatise, please to inform me your <sup>wholesale</sup> ~~retail~~ Price.

Mr. Manning has put in my hands, 2 Doz: of your Subscription Papers for your 2<sup>d</sup> Vol: of <sup>the</sup> History, which you

wanted, as owing to my <sup>leaving</sup> ~~having~~ no amount in it, I have

you may rely on my Exertion in promoting - I wish  
you could be at Newport by the Middle of next week  
I may probably be there, if not, Mr. Thimmon would  
be glad to see you, it can't be much out of your  
Way in your Return home from Exeter. -

Every Blessing attend you.

Yrs Affectionately

Wm. Rogers

Rev: Isaac Backus. Wm. Rogers

Oct. 14. 1783.

Rec'd at Providence

Oct. 20.

I. B.



Phil<sup>a</sup>. May 21. .784.

Rev: & Dear F<sup>r</sup>.

Two Days ago came to hand a short  
note from you dated above 6 Months past, viz, Nov: 4. 83. with  
same I rec<sup>d</sup>. a few of your Pamphlets on Liberty & a Number  
of the Assoc<sup>n</sup>. Minutes, they shall be distributed pursuant to your  
wish. I am glad the 6 Deficient Sheets of the History were  
forwarded, as owing to my <sup>letting</sup> ~~having~~ no Opportunity pass by, I have  
got rid of all the perfect ones, and I expect soon to Dispose of  
the Others. I lately rec<sup>d</sup>. a Lett<sup>r</sup> from W. Foster, Intimating  
~~purposing soon to begin the Publication of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Vol: & Re-~~  
questing me to transmit to you the Subscription Papers entrusted  
to my care. On my Arrival in Phil<sup>a</sup> last Fall, I gave W.  
all the Subscription Papers, excepting 3 or 4, begging him  
to use his utmost Endeavors in obtaining Subscribers, for this  
purpose, he tells me he forwarded the same to the several Churches,  
I have call'd on him, acquainting him with your Request to  
have them Return'd &c. What Steps he will take, I do not  
know, he will probably write you on the Subject. —  
as I often visit them, I mean to become answerable for,

they are a fine Church & a spirited <sup>Congregation</sup> ~~People~~, while many of our Churches have <sup>not</sup> taken ~~not~~ a single copy of your 1<sup>st</sup> Vol: they have at least taken 40, I wish all our People throughout the Continent had the Baptist Inter: as much at heart; But on this head we have to take up a Lamentation. — Their Subscription Paper I now Inclose. —

What Philad: as a Church will do, their present Minister knows best; As an Individual I beg you to put me down as a Subscriber for 12 & Mr. John Holmes for 6, whereby I become entitled to 2 & he to One Gratis, this Number you will please to forward to me, separate from what ~~Mr. Ustie~~ <sup>may</sup> ~~send to him~~ <sup>send to</sup> Mr. Ustie. —

Quere — Would it not be proper towards the Close of your History to take Notice of our College, and the Baptist Ministers educated therein — This tho' you probably have Done. —

Should I live & my health continue I Expect to be at the Eastward this Season, when I mean, God willing, to have an Interview with you & then we will be able to come to a full Close of the Acc<sup>t</sup>: between us; When your Fear that I have paid <sup>you</sup> for more <sup>Books</sup> than I have sold, will I imagine be done away & more Money be your Due. —



In W. Kelly's, on Record, between 20 & 30,

I sincerely wish you every possible Encouragement in your present  
Important Undertaking, may your success with the 2<sup>d</sup> Vol: make  
up for the loss you sustain'd with the 1<sup>st</sup>. —

Yesterday

I rec<sup>d</sup>. a Lett<sup>r</sup>. from W. John Gill, London, Son to the famous  
Doct<sup>r</sup>. & sole Executor to W. George Keith, who dyed Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1782 —  
W. Gill, has a Numbr<sup>e</sup>. of his Father's Works on hand & wishes  
it might be known in America —

The Doct<sup>r</sup>.'s Exposit<sup>n</sup>. of the N. Testam<sup>t</sup>. 5 Vol: Quarto in Boards  
£3.15 Sterling, those who take 6 sets to have a 7<sup>th</sup>. gratis. —

If a less Number is wanted, he will allow 20 p<sup>er</sup> Cent. —

The Old Testam<sup>t</sup>. beginning with Genesis & Ending with y<sup>e</sup>. 132<sup>d</sup>  
Psalm, 6 Vol: Quarto, £1.16 Sterlf. — No Bookseller since  
W. Keith's Death can be got to compleat it. — The subscription  
Price was 15s p<sup>er</sup> Vol: but owing to their not being finish'd, he  
sells the 6 at 36s. —

His Sermons & Tracts 3 Vol: Quarto with Memoirs of his  
Life 36s Sterlf. —

His Cause of God & Truth 12s. His Solomon Song 12s. — If

you or any of our Eastern Baptists wish to send for any,  
you must direct for W. John Gill, at W. Ash's, Bookseller,  
N<sup>o</sup>. 15. Little Tower Street, London. — The Baptist

Interest this way is at rather a low Ebb at present, excepting  
2 or 3 Country places where there is a little Revival, &  
this City we are a Society hardly ever experienced an  
unpromising Aspect - I hope you experience better Times

Mr. Rogers is very poorly, & joins in Respects to you  
& Mrs. Backus. - From, my Dear <sup>3</sup>, y<sup>r</sup>. af<sup>ly</sup> & affectionately

W. Rogers

Rev. Isaac Backus. -



May 21. 1784.

Rev. June 29.

8. 23.



Newport Augt. 18. 1784

Rev. & dear Sir

After we parted I got  
Seasonably to Mr. Thompson's, requested him to  
forward you, the List of Members in his &  
Elder Mason's Church, am fearfull from the  
Difficulties he rais'd of procuring the same,  
he will fail in forwarding the acct. in due time.

Members in Mr. Thurston's Church are,  
he tells me, about 230.

In Mr. Kelly's, on Record, between 20 & 30,  
the Records I have not seen, this is the Information  
I have rec<sup>d</sup>. verbally.

The Inclosed Paper, signed by Deacon  
Tanner, is, I must say, like doing Business,  
The Paper speaks for itself.

dated - This Day I have forwarded the Box


As you presented the public Library of Phil<sup>a</sup>  
with the 1<sup>st</sup>. Vol: of your History - would it not  
be proper to present them with the 2<sup>d</sup>. Vols.

If you do, I will see it delivered. ~

Elder Lewis was in this City yesterday -  
he tells me, his Church at Freetown have  
granted him a Dismission, so that he is  
unsettled. ~ With real Esteem, I am, Dear

Sir, yours affectionately. ~ Rogers



Rev. W. Backus. ~ 

Wm. Rogers.  
Aug. 18. 1784

Rec<sup>d</sup>. Aug. 19.

J. B.

& Wm. Backus. ~



Philad<sup>a</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. 14. 17811

Dear J<sup>r</sup>.

Your's of Sept: 28<sup>th</sup>. with the Books for  
Johns & myself came to hand yesterday, 14 Days  
more would make it 3 Months since the lett<sup>r</sup>. was  
dated — This Day I have forwarded the Box for  
Johns; you should have charg'd that People  
with 55 copies only, instead of 56, as I ventured  
to promise M<sup>r</sup>. Nathan Sheppard in your Name a  
Gratis copy for his Trouble in getting the Sub<sup>scri</sup>ption  
List filled & his being accountable for the whole  
Money &c — I have wrote to him that the Cash  
is much wanted by you — Your Proposal about  
M<sup>r</sup>. Aitken & M<sup>r</sup>. Manning I shall duly attend  
to. — M<sup>r</sup>. Utie is somewhat poorly, I have supplied  
the Pulpit 2 Lord's Days — Inclosed is one of our Aps<sup>to</sup>.  
Letters — In great haste I subscribe myself  
Your's in Gospel Bonds —

Rev<sup>d</sup>. M<sup>r</sup>. Backus.

Rogers

Wm. Royce.  
Dec. 16. 1787

Recd. Jan. 9-88.  
9. 23.

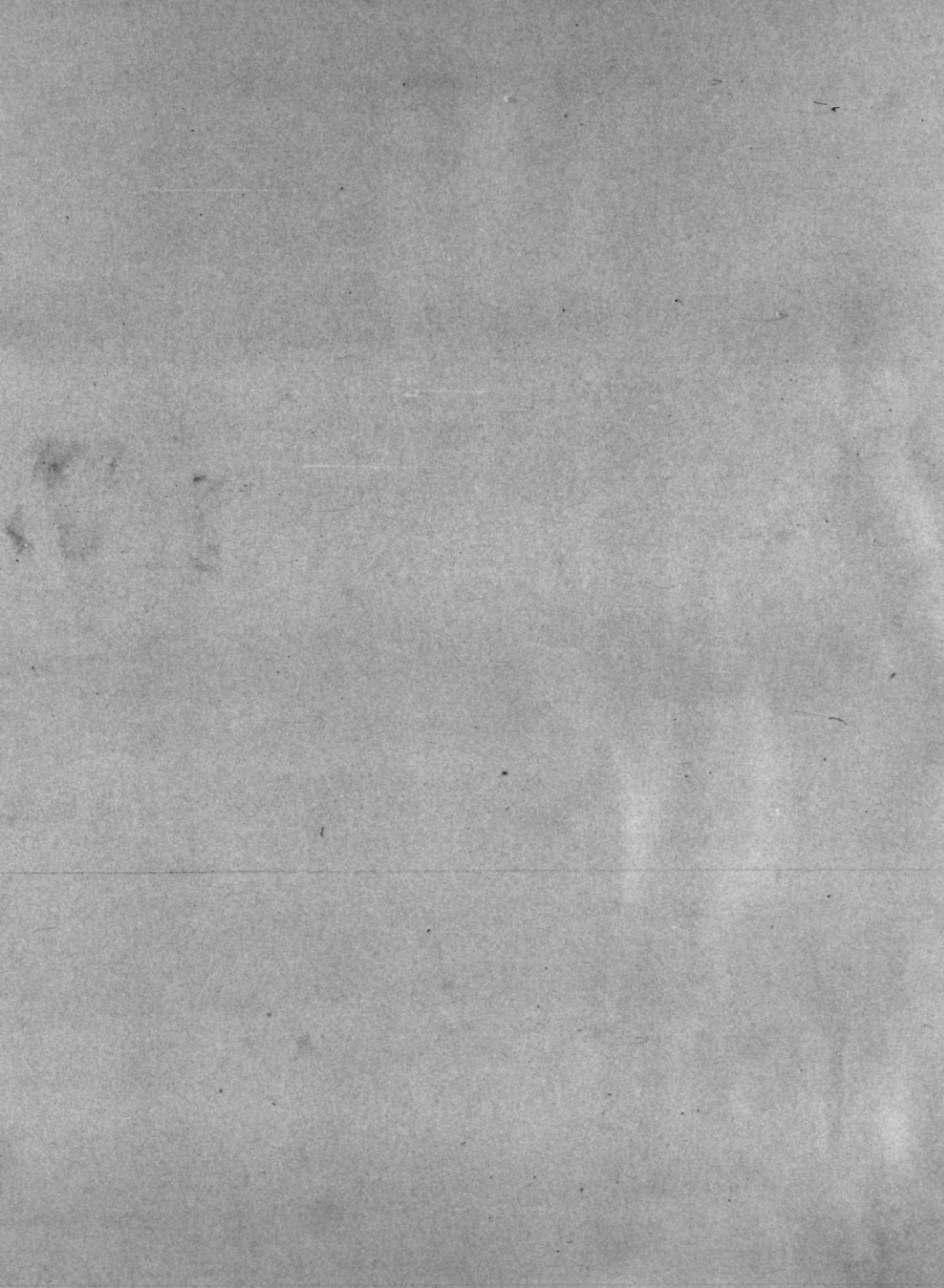
Ans. wged Jan. 15.

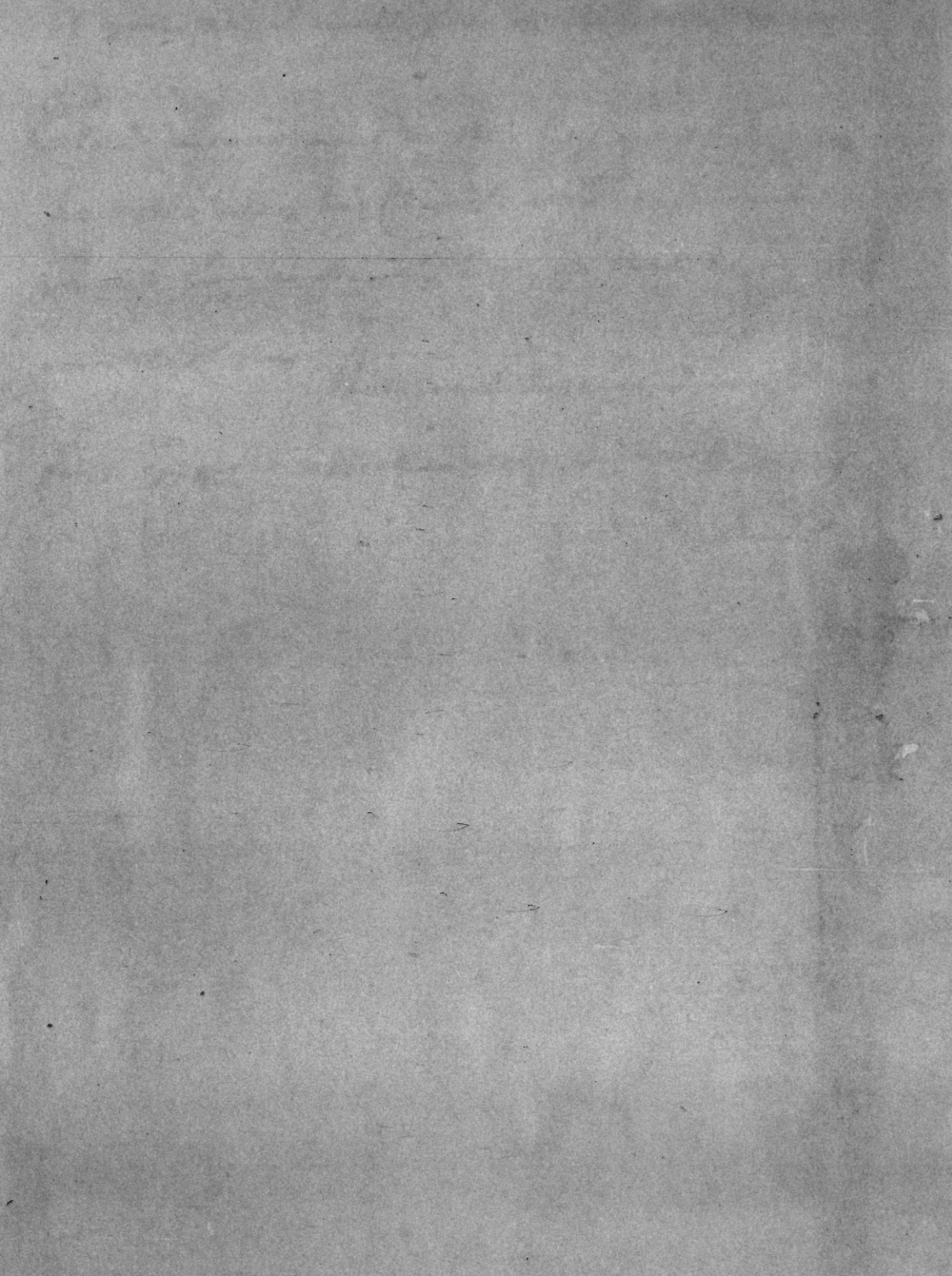
Rev. Isaac Backus

Middleborough.

Care of John Foster Esq:  
Providence.









Philad<sup>a</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. 27. 1785.

Dear Sir

The Pamphlett Inclosed Mr. Winchester put into my hands to forward to you, it is a well wrote Performances on the distinct personality & Divinity of Christ - for which he deserves credit, as Socinianism & Arianism are at present very fashionable & prevailing Errors. - In the 2<sup>d</sup>. Vol: of your history which arrived last Month I am sorry you omitted forwarding a Grats Copy to Mr. Edwards & another to our public Library - It is not too late yet. - It would give me pleasure was it now in my power to order you some Money, but as a mere Trifle only has been rec<sup>d</sup>. by me, you must wait untill another opportunity - I have as yet not got in a single farthing from Chancy. - Mr. David Shakespear thinks he advance'd you when at Phil<sup>a</sup>, 1/2 a Guinea, he wishes to know for what purpose it was advance'd & whether you made any Memorandum thereof - he says he may labor under a Mistake - if so - you can set it to Rights - I married him last week to the eldest Daughter of our mutual Friend Mr. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Davis. - Thro' Mercy my

Family are in comfortable health - W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers was put to Bed  
the 15<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup>. & brought me another Son. - At the pressing  
Solicitation of our Church I have engaged to preach during the  
present Season, Lord's Day Evening Lectures, upon which occasion  
we are very gratified -

Respects to W<sup>m</sup>. Backus & your good  
Family, from, dear J<sup>r</sup>, yours affectionately -

Rogers

Rev: J. Backus. -

W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers letter

Jan. 1785.

Rec<sup>d</sup>. May 26.

J. B.

W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers.  
Jan. 27. 1785.  
Rec<sup>d</sup>. May 26.  
J. B.



Philadelphia Aug<sup>r</sup> 25. 1785.

Dear f<sup>r</sup>. —

Philad<sup>a</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 31. 1785. —

The Box of Books you sent to Cohansy, on being opened, was found to contain 59 Copies only, I was missing, they were counted several times over by several worthy Members of the Church. —

This missing Copy & the one presented to W<sup>t</sup>. Nathaniel Shepard in your Name for his trouble, reduces your Acct. against Cohansy to 81 Dollars or £24-6 Lawf<sup>d</sup>. Money of New England — which sum I now forward you by Capt. Ambrose, directed to the Care of W<sup>t</sup>. Maorning & hope you may receive it in good time as it has lain in my Hands only about 3 weeks, waiting for a suitable Opportunity. —

Your Acct. against me for 18 Copies I will Endeavor to settle with you as soon as possible thro' the Medium of my Brother John — From my

Health - W. R.

Acc<sup>t</sup>. you must deduct Three Dollars -

Freight from Boston & Portage here  $1\frac{1}{2}$

History presented to Library 2<sup>d</sup> Vol. ....  $1\frac{1}{2}$   
3 Dols.

Please on the Reception of the Money from  
Johansey, to give them full credit on your Book.

Religion among us is at a very low Ebb - in no  
Church more so than in Phil<sup>a</sup>. - I now preach fre-  
quently at a Borough called Wilmington in Delaware  
State, 28 Miles from this City, where the Baptists  
have but lately obtained a Name, since which  
they have been enabled on a pleasant commanding  
hill to erect a neat 2 story brick Meeting house -  
which tho' not finished, we have preached in since  
May. - From Kentucky, Monongahela &c  
we have lately rec<sup>d</sup>. joyful Tidings relative unto  
the Revival of Religion & amazing Growth of the  
Baptist Interest. -



Maryland & Virginia are making hasty  
Strides towards Episcopal Establishments - I lately  
came across a curious proposed Bill of the latter<sup>to</sup>  
respecting this Matter, which I have carefully pres-<sup>erved</sup>  
erved & now Enclose - This Engrossed Monster  
will be justified or condemned the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
of Nov<sup>r</sup>. next, which is now nigh at hand. -

May a Majority of duly Illumined Statesmen  
then prevail to kick this unscriptural, hetero-<sup>g</sup>-  
geneous Imposition on Freedom of Conscience,  
into utter Darkness -

"My Kingdom is not of this World"  
was the Declaration of the great Founder of our  
holy Religion. - Mrs. Rogers & Family are  
well, we join in Love & Respects to yourself,  
Mr. Backus & Children - From, Dear Sir,  
y<sup>r</sup>. in Jesus - Wm. Rogers -

P.S. Many Things have turned up to prevent  
my attending the Warren Association - I hope Mr.  
Gano who was also appointed will not fail being in  
with you - God grant you may have an agreeable  
Interview together - The written Lett<sup>r</sup>. & printed  
Minutes of our last Ass<sup>y</sup>. designed for your's - I  
sometime ago sent on to Mr. Gano. -

Please  
to exert your Influence towards forwarding me the  
Money for the 100 copies of Mr. Hart's Sermon  
Subscribed for by your Association - I sent them  
together with the Act. to Mr. Manning last Month.  
The Printer must be paid - W. Rogers

Rev. J. Backus. -

Recd. Sept. 13.  
9. 23.

W. Rogers  
Aug. 31. 1788



Phila 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 25. 1785.

Dear Sir .—

By W<sup>m</sup>. Manning, agreeable to  
your Request, I forwarded 24 Dollars, which ballances  
the Acct. between us for the 2<sup>d</sup> Vol: of your History .—

Ever this I expected to have Rec<sup>d</sup>. the Minutes of  
your last Association, I hope you have not forgot me  
on this head .— Inclosed is over's which were finished  
Printing this very Evening .— In haste, I subscribe my-  
self your's affectionately .

W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers

Rev. W<sup>m</sup>. Backus .

Forwarded by Mr. Davis  
London, 11 Nov: 85  
Wm. Rogers Esq. New York

Rev. Isaac Backus

Middleborough

State of Massachusetts.

In favor Capt. Ambrose.

To Care of Nicholas Brown Esq.  
Providence.

Wm. Rogers letter

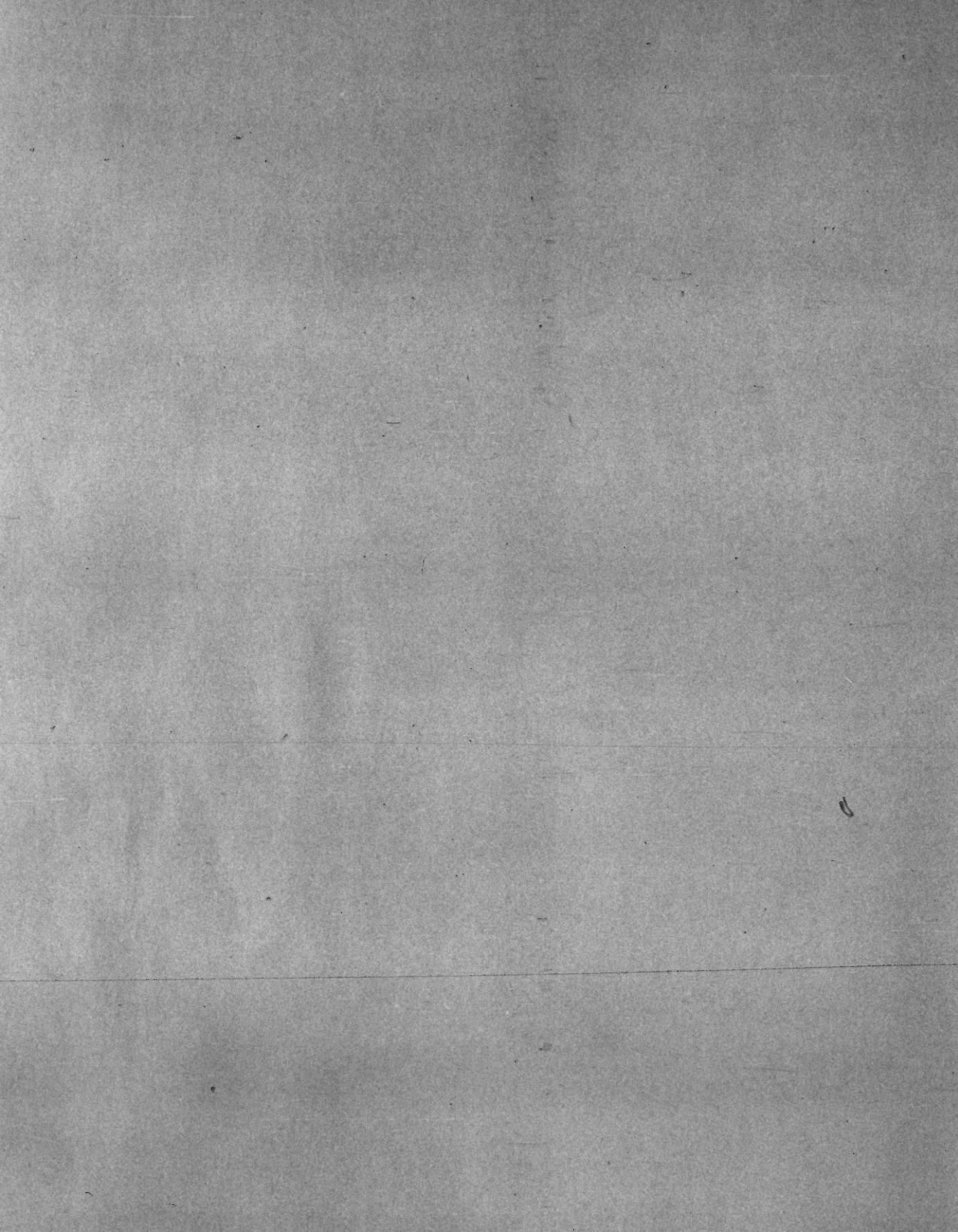
Wm. Rogers,

Oct. 25. 1785.

Recd. Nov. 15.









Philad<sup>a</sup>. Nov. 30. 1786

Rev<sup>d</sup>. & Dear Sir.

I have Rec<sup>d</sup>. at 2 Diff<sup>t</sup>. Times  
25 Copies of your 2 Witnesses, in all 50 - Which I am  
now Endeavoring to Dispose of - Be so obliging as to  
Inform me what your Charge is by the hundred or Dozen  
that I may know how to settle with you. - Since our

late Abs<sup>n</sup>, the Copy of our Minutes being Includ<sup>d</sup>, I  
have visited Cumberland County N. Jersey, was absent  
2 weeks, preached every Day, excepting Two & Baptized  
1 Person - The People flock remarkably to hear the Gospel  
of Peace. - By Intelligence from London, I find our

Circular Letter on Justification has undergone a new  
& Elegant Impression - A few Copies were sent me -  
Please to accept One of them. -

I will thank you  
to forward me a Copy of your late Abs<sup>n</sup>. Proceedings -

After Respects to your good Family, I subscribe myself,  
Dear Sir, your's in a very precious Jesus. W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers  
which is £1.12 your's, for 4 Doz. W<sup>t</sup>. Hart's Sermon - with

Wm. Rogers & Peltier  
Nov. 30. 1886.

Recd. Feb. 11. 1887.  
J. P. S.

Rev. W. D. Packard.



Philad<sup>a</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>. 2. 1787.

My Dear f<sup>r</sup>. —

Your favor of April 14<sup>th</sup>. In-  
-closing your Minutes, after a Detention somewhere  
by far too long, at last found it's Way into the  
Post Office at New York, from whence it was speedily  
conveyed to this City. — I was much comforted with  
the good News conveyed relative to the Advancem<sup>t</sup>.  
of a Redeemer's Interest in those Places you speak  
of, may so glorious a Work spread throughout all  
our Borders & cause all Zion's Children to leap for  
Joy. — M<sup>r</sup>. Wheeler at Providence forwarded me  
50 Copies of your Pamphlett on the 2 Witnesses —  
2 Copies whereof I made free to give away in your  
Name to a Couple of our poor Ministers — The  
Rest amounting to 4 Dozen I have sold — which  
at 6/8 your Money per Doz. amounts to £1. 6. 0 —  
Now as Doct<sup>r</sup>. Manning owes me 40/ Penns<sup>a</sup>. M<sup>t</sup>.  
which is £1. 12 your's, for 4 Doz. M<sup>r</sup>. Hart's Sermon —  
I have given the Country & close your acc<sup>t</sup>. with

Probably it may suit him to ~~visit~~ you & to forward me the Ballance - Let me know soon as the Printer of M<sup>r</sup>. Hart's Sermon must at all Events be settled with.

To lose the Chief Distinction which raises us above mere Animals is a Loss Indeed! - That this has been the Case with poor M<sup>r</sup>. Ustie, I dare say, you have heard; The most agreeable Part of the Story is that he has come in a great Measure to himself, and will, we hope, if he continues to mend, be soon fit to perform Ministerial Duty again - In the mean while I supply the Pulpit. - The last Time of his preaching was the 2<sup>d</sup>. Sabbath in June. - In this City all is Deadness in a Religious Way, at the Valley Church so called, 20 Miles due West from Philad<sup>a</sup>. there is a considerable Revival, several have been Baptized. - As I gave over sometime ago, all thoughts of visiting the Eastern Associat<sup>n</sup>, the Letter was forwarded to Doct<sup>r</sup>. Manning 5 or 6 weeks past. - Apropos - Do meet us at New York the very 1<sup>st</sup>. Tuesday in October. - Our Associat<sup>n</sup>. will be happy, peculiarly



so in your company. — Mr. Winchester lately  
took it into his head to go to London, he sailed with  
his Wife accordingly on Monday last. Whether he  
means to continue there or Return to America is  
best known to himself as is the Why & Wherefore of  
of his Going. —

M<sup>rs</sup>. Rogers has been very poorly, &  
she is now thro' Mercy getting better, we join in  
Christian Love to yourself, M<sup>rs</sup>. Backus & good  
Family. — With all due Esteem, I am, my Dear  
Sir, your's affectionately. W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers

Rev. M<sup>r</sup>. Backus.

to hear from the Country & close your Acc<sup>ts</sup> with

Wm. Rogers' Letter.  
Aug. 2. 1784.

Rev. Wm. S. —

Rev. Isaac Backus

Middleborough. —

To care of Rev. Doct. Manning  
Providence. —

I recd. no more  
from him, till I  
wrote to him  
Oct. 21. 1784.



Philad<sup>a</sup> March 14. 1791 —

Very dear Sir,

It is a long, very long Time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you — I wrote either 2 or 3 Letters, without receiving any in Return, which, with many increasing Concerns on my Side, probably may have influenced me to decline the Prosecution of a Correspondence which I forever priz'd & now once more attempt to renew. — Should my good & worthy Friend find Leisure again to address me as formerly, it will afford me peculiar Satisfaction, let your Letters be put under Cover to Dr. Stillman in Boston or my Brothers in Newport & they will reach me in Safety. — One from you I must acknowledge the Reception of, bearing Date March 30. 1790, it came to Land by Post from N. York about the Middle of Sept. following — the Letter to which <sup>you</sup> allude of Oct<sup>r</sup>. 21. 1789. has not yet found it's Way to me. — I have been waiting some weeks to hear from the Country & <sup>to</sup> close your Acc<sup>t</sup>. with the

Persons whom I entrusted with your Pamphlets, this I have at last accomplish'd & find myself indebted to you for 4 Doz: of the 2 Witnesses at 6/8 L. M. per Dozen - 2 Copies having been presented Mr. Corbley & Mr. Edwards by your Order - and also for 3 Doz & 1/2 of the Atonement of X<sup>t</sup>, 3 Copies remaining unsold, your Charge for the 50 Copies being £1.2 - If you will be so kind as to direct me to whom to send the Money, it shall be immediately forwarded. - During the life time of our good Brother Cair I sent you occasionally, to his Care, a few Pamphlets, among others my Oration & never heard whether they got to your hands, be so obliging as to inform me. -

Thos<sup>r</sup> Mervy my family are in comfortable health & join in Christian Affection to you & your's - I dare say you have been made acquainted with my being engag'd as One of the Instructors in the College & Academy of this City, this took place in the Spring of 1789. - Religion among us is at a very low Ebb indeed - Oh for the Outpourings of the blessed Spirit of our GOD & the triumphant Reign of the glorious Messiah! - Our Society in this City is in a very languishing Condition; may the Time to favor Zion speedily come & the Gathering of the People be unto him who is the blessed



Founder of that Denomination who dwell alone  
& are not Reckon'd among the Nations. —

Whether Mr. Edwards's Materials for a History of  
the Baptists in New Jersey will be published or not,  
is hard to say — If they should be, you will be duly  
notified, in the mean while you had better permit  
me to transmit you the Money in my Hands arising  
from the sales of your Pamphlets — however I will do  
whatever you please to order — The Old Gentleman  
I understand, is now travelling on the same Expedition  
among our Churches in the State of Delaware. —

That you, my Dear Sir, may enjoy much of the di-  
vine Presence & experience the continual Smiles  
of a God of Love, is the fervent Prayer of your  
real Friend & unworthy Brother,

Wm Rogers

Rev. Mr. Backus.

This I answered, May 28. 1791, &  
add<sup>d</sup> him to send a dollar towards  
the Bible he is printing, and the  
rest of the m<sup>y</sup> to Dr. Hillman, &c.

2. 23.

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Philad<sup>a</sup>. Novr. 2. 1791.

Rev. & very dear sir,

A strange fatality has of late years attended our epistolary Correspondence - Can you believe it, when I assure you that One of your Letters now before me, dated Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. 1790, came to hand June 2<sup>d</sup>. 91. And 2 others, dated May 28<sup>th</sup>. & June 7<sup>th</sup>. Last, were handed me <sup>on</sup> Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. & not before - How it should so happen, it is not for me to say - One thing be assured of, that your Letters always afford me very sensible pleasure. -

You astonish me in saying that my Letter of March 11<sup>th</sup>. 91. was the 1<sup>st</sup>. you had rec<sup>d</sup>. from me since Aug<sup>t</sup>. 2<sup>d</sup>. 87. I am confident as to my writing several times in that period ~~of time~~ - The Pamphlets I forwarded you, to the Care of Bro<sup>r</sup>. Gair, not being del<sup>d</sup>. till so long after his Death, is somewhat <sup>surprising</sup> ~~astonishing~~, they were sent at different Times - I am glad you got them at last. - With your Letter

of June 7<sup>th</sup> came a Bundle of Pamphlets, loose - Exclusive of the 3  
designed for me, for which accept my thanks, and the 2 under Purple  
Cover for Dr. Josias, there were 25 on Faith & 3 only on Ministers'  
Support, None on Election - these things I just mention, apprehensive  
that some must have been taken out - You request me to sell  
2 Doz. Copies & give away the Rest, I will endeavor so to do, &  
when sold, will send you the Money. - In the course of this Month  
I have to settle with Dr. Stillman for his Sermons on Apostolic Preach.  
& by the same Conveyance will forward him for you what is due  
for the 2 Witnesses & on the Atonem<sup>t</sup>. - I recollect very well  
the 5 Coll<sup>d</sup>. due you for the 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. of your Hist<sup>y</sup>. & 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  d<sup>s</sup>. for  
the 20 Pamphlets ag<sup>t</sup>. Universal Salv<sup>n</sup>. - but it runs in my Mind  
that I drew an Order on my Bro<sup>r</sup>. John in Providence to that  
Am<sup>t</sup>. which I think he accepted - I will write to him immedi-  
ately on the Subject & get the Matter rectified, so that if he has  
not settled with you, I will. - The 2 Letters <sup>from you</sup> enclosed in mine  
for Virginia were forwarded in 2 or 3 Days after I got them. -

The Manuscript Hymn you enclosed me "The Complainer reformed"  
is beautiful, I have sent a Copy of it to Mr. Rippon & mean to  
have it printed in our Magazine - Pray, who is the Author?



Agreeably to your Request I have subscribed for a Copy  
of Mr. Collins's Bible on your acct., it will be the nearest,  
the cheapest & most correct Bible in America. —

I am much surprised at Mr. Fiske's Conduct in his  
declining years — Mr. Hunt I understand has gone to the  
World of Spirits. — It must rejoice every Friend of real  
Religion to hear of the Prosperity of our Lion in the States of  
Massachusetts & New Hampshire — may the good Work flour-  
ish & spread from the Rising to the Setting Sun! — I suppose

you must have read Mr. Macey's Sermon on the Death of  
Dr. M. — it is among us universally censured — How came  
so promising a young Man to imbibe Sentiments so contra-  
ry to our System of Faith? — How far it may ultimately af-  
fect the College, wherein he is Prof. of Div., I do not pretend  
to say. — Counsellor Carter of Virginia has embraced all  
the Principles & wild notions of Swedenborg, I understand  
the Church with which he is connected is about disowning  
him — he has lately freed upwards of 400 slaves. —

I hear Mr. Leland has settled in New England, I wish  
to know in what part & how he is esteemed. —

You will please to accept of the enclosed Pamphlets;

30 Copies of America's Remembrancer are forwarded to Dr. Stillm<sup>r</sup>  
for sale. Mr. Hart's Apo<sup>st</sup>. Sermon is also to be printed, I will  
take care to forward you a copy as soon as they are out of  
Press. — I have lately rec<sup>d</sup>. Letters from Mr. Rippon & Mr. Bout-  
ton of London, the Death of dear Dr. Evans is another severe  
Blow! — Th<sup>r</sup> mercy my Family are in health, Mr<sup>s</sup>. Rogers  
unites in Christian Love to J<sup>es</sup>s & Mr<sup>s</sup>. Backus, with, Rev. &  
Dear Sir, your's in a precious Jesus. — W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers



Rev. Mr. Backus.

Do write me soon & often.

8. 23.

Rec<sup>d</sup>. Nov. 30

Wm. Rogers, Nov. 8.  
1791



Phil<sup>a</sup>. Decr 16. 91.

My dear Sir,

I wrote you the other day in full via Boston,  
since which nothing particular has occurred - I now write in the  
greatest haste - The Ab<sup>n</sup>. letters enclosed were sent to my late friend  
Wing<sup>m</sup>. - please to dispose of them, as you deem expedient - Mr. Edwards's  
list of N. Jersey Baptists please to promote as much as is in your  
power - the \$19 mentioned is to a dollar -

Yrs<sup>t</sup> most affectionately,

Wm<sup>d</sup>  
A. Rogers

Recd. Mr. Isaac Packard,

Wm Rogers.

Dec. 18. 1791.

Recd. Feb. 12. 92.

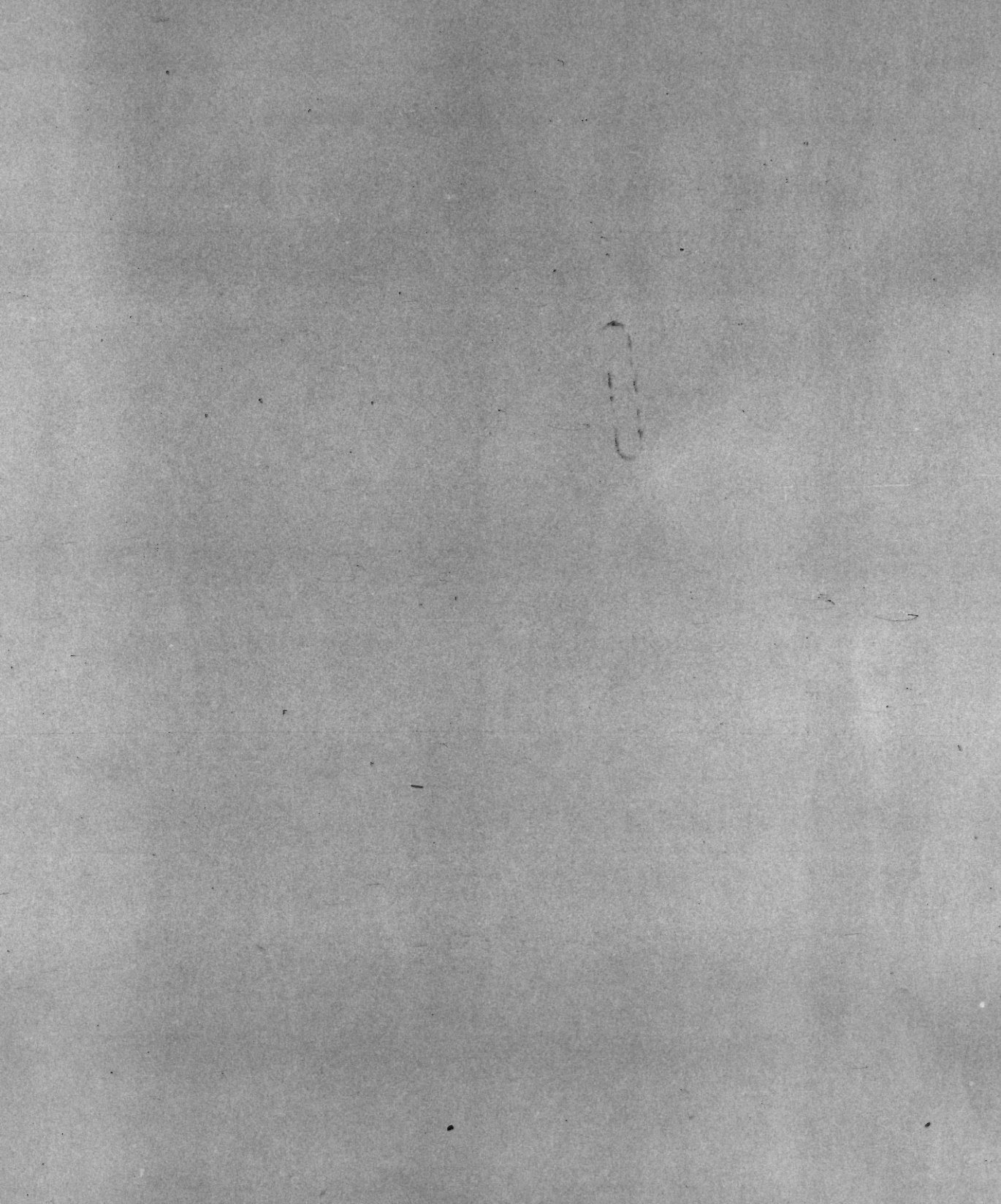
J. S.

Middleborough,

Massachusetts.

To the very particular Care of John  
Carter, Esq<sup>r</sup>, Providence.





6



Philad<sup>a</sup> April 25<sup>th</sup> 1792.

Rev. & Dear Sir,

Your favor of Feb<sup>y</sup>. 15<sup>th</sup> came to hand last month & that of the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> written in Providence I rec<sup>d</sup>. last week, with 50 Pieces on the Kingdom <sup>of GOD</sup>, which I will endeavor to sell for you agreeably to your Desire — Enclosed is your Acc<sup>t</sup>. Pro & Con since our last settlement in Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1784 to the present Time (exclusive of the above Pieces on the Kingdom of GOD) which I hope may prove satisfactory — Collins's Bible & the Balance of the Acc<sup>t</sup>, viz, 7 Dollars  $\frac{1}{4}$  & 3 cents I have committed to the care of Capt. Smith & forwarded for you to Dr. Stillman.

I have charged you with the full Am<sup>t</sup>. of 12 copies of M<sup>r</sup>. Edwards's History — which in case they are not published I must make good to you in Money.

I will thank you to enclose me a Rec<sup>t</sup>. in full of all Acc<sup>t</sup>. up to the present Date, noticing the

history are now our

I also understand the

foregoing Exceptions. — I forward you with this  
a Pamphlet or 2 with a few News Papers for your  
amusement. — Pray did you ever get W. Hart's Thanks-  
giving Sermons which I sent you sometime ago? —

I made an Enquiry of you concerning W. Leland,  
which I suppose your great haste prevented your  
Noticing. — The News you communicate respecting  
the Revival of Religion at Boston, Providence, District  
of Maine &c is truly refreshing — the great Access-  
ions to the Baptist Interest evidently bespeak  
that Truth must & will finally triumph! —

But alas, this City & all around us appear  
to be in an awful State of Stupidity — Socinianism,  
Arianism, & Deism are gaining Ground — The  
great Doctrines of the Gospel have (comparatively  
break?) but few Advocates — Oh for the Outpour-  
ing of the Holy Spirit throughout all our Borders!

Mr. N. Brown & Bro. Macey have been on a  
Visit to Phil<sup>a</sup> for the Benefit of their Health,



they went away yesterday, I had very particular  
Conversation with Bro. Masey on Doctrinal Points  
& obtained great Satisfaction thereby — I heard  
him preach on Lord's Day last P. M. and was  
much pleased with his Discourse, he is a Modest,  
sensible, & worthy young Man! — Thro' Mercy  
my family are in Health & Mr. Rogers joins in  
Christian Affection to self & Mr. Backus —

From, my dear Sir, yours in Gospel Bonds,

W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers

Rev. Mr. Backus.

Wm. Rogers.  
April 25. 1792.  
Vol. Aug. 9. 1793.



Wm. Rogers' au.

Pa. Aug. 9. 1792.

J. D.

Rev. M<sup>r</sup>. Backus in acc<sup>t</sup> with W<sup>m</sup>.

Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1784. To Freight from Boston & Porter £0. 14. 3

April 1785. To 1 Hist<sup>y</sup>. 2<sup>d</sup>. Vol. present<sup>d</sup>. by } ... 11. 3  
your order to Phil<sup>a</sup>. Library }

Oct<sup>r</sup>. 5. 1785. To Cash per Rev. D<sup>r</sup>. Manning. 9. 0. 0

Nov. 1. 1791. To Collins's Bible 1<sup>st</sup>. Paym<sup>t</sup>. 7/6 }  
April 10. 92. . . . . 2<sup>d</sup>. Paym<sup>t</sup>. . . . 22/6 } 1. 10. —

April 21. — To the full am<sup>t</sup>. of your Subscrip<sup>n</sup>. }  
for 12 Copies of M<sup>r</sup>. Edwards's pro- } 2. 5. —  
posed Hist<sup>y</sup>. of the Baptists in N. J. }

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Pennf<sup>a</sup>. Curr<sup>y</sup>. £ 13. 17. 6

April 21<sup>th</sup>. 92. To Cash in full, by the }  
hands of Capt. Smith of Boston, agreeably } 2. 14. 7  
to his Rect<sup>r</sup>., forwarded to the care of D<sup>r</sup>.  
Stillman. }

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£ 16. 12. 1

N. B. £2. 14. 7 is equal to 7 Doll<sup>r</sup>.  $\frac{1}{4}$  & 10 Coppers.

Provided M<sup>r</sup>. Edwards's <sup>History</sup> should not be published,  
I must send you 6 Doll<sup>r</sup>. in money.



Phil<sup>a</sup> June 22. 1793.

Rogers.

Penn<sup>a</sup> Curr<sup>y</sup>.

Aug<sup>t</sup>. 14. 1784.

By 5 Histories 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. . . . . £1. 5. 6

20 Pamphlets ag<sup>t</sup> Univ<sup>l</sup>. Sale<sup>r</sup>. . . . . 18. 9

Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1784. By 18 Histories 2<sup>d</sup> Vol. . . . . 10. 2. 6

July 31. 1786. By 25 Copies of the 2 Witnesses . . . . 16. 8

Oct<sup>r</sup>. 18. — 25 Ditto . . . . . 16. 8

March 14. 1788. By 50 Copies on the }  
Atonem<sup>t</sup> of X<sup>t</sup>. } 4. 5

June 7. 1791. By 24 Pamphlets on }  
the Importance of Faith } . . . 15

Penn<sup>a</sup> Curr<sup>y</sup>. £ 16. 12. 1

N. B. 2 Copies of the 2 Witnesses & 1 on the  
Atonem<sup>t</sup> were given away.

you 18 fa

Wm Rogers' acc.  
Pa. Aug. 9. 1790.  
S. D.



Phil<sup>a</sup> July 21. 1792.

Dear Sir,

Last April I wrote to you  
by a Capt. Smith of Boston & forwarded for  
you to the care of Dr. Stillman, Collins's  
Bible & 7 Doll<sup>r</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  &c in Cash, in full of  
all Acc<sup>t</sup>s between us up to that Date,

exclusive of 6 Doll<sup>r</sup> which I reserved for  
Mr. Edwards's Hist<sup>y</sup>. — I also forwarded  
by the same conveyance 8 Doll<sup>r</sup> &  $\frac{1}{4}$  on Dr.  
Stillman's own Acc<sup>t</sup>, and in Return have  
not heard a word from either whether the  
Money be got safe to hand — which to  
have done would certainly have proved  
highly satisfactory. — Mr. Edwards's  
History are now out & I send you 18 fo-

Ans<sup>d</sup> Mar. 4. 1793.

Wm Rogers  
July 21. 1792.  
Rec<sup>d</sup>. Nov. 9. 1792.

Witcham 11 23 worse than the p<sup>r</sup>

pics instead of 12, as they come cheaper than  
was at first expected, viz  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a Dol. instead  
of one half — The Author has enclosed one  
Copy bound as a Present — The Printer against  
your name has put 22 instead of 12 — he did  
the same with Mr. Brown — Errata these of no  
moment. — We are now square, exclusive  
of your Pamphlet on the Kingdom of God, which  
I have try'd to sell but as yet they remain on  
hand, at least a great Part of them. — As Bro.<sup>r</sup>  
Ustick is in the Book & Pamphlet Way, it  
will be better for you in future to commit  
such Publications to his care — It is in his  
Power to send a Dozen of any Publication to  
my Ore. — Thro' mercy my family are well  
I join in Mr. Love to you & your's — From your  
Friend & Bro. in Christ — Wm Rogers.



Phil<sup>a</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. 10. 1792.

My dear Sir,

Your favor of Sept. 3<sup>d</sup>. I rec<sup>d</sup>.

in about 3 weeks after date, enclosing a Rec<sup>t</sup>. for  
Money sent you &c — Your last Pamphlets are  
not yet sold, when disposed of, I will settle  
with you & am willing to serve you to the  
utmost of my Power — The Losses & disappoint-  
ments you speak of in Books sent to England,  
are mortifying — Vice & Treachery in many In-  
stances strangely triumph — their Reign cannot  
be long! — With this you will get a Copy of our  
Apo<sup>st</sup>. Minutes, I wish very much to obtain a  
Copy of your last for my file; can you send me  
a Copy? — Have you seen the Banbury Letter;  
what are your thoughts respect<sup>g</sup>. it? — It gives  
much pain to all sound Calvinists among us —  
Would to GOD, that the Disciples of Jesus

Witchcraft — I also rec<sup>d</sup>. it 1. 44.

of 12, as they come cheaper than

would avoid such occasions of offence. I am apprehensive that the next Phil.<sup>a</sup> Aps.<sup>n</sup> will take the matter seriously up, & discover them as a corresponding Aps.<sup>n</sup>. — This is design'd by some of our leading ministers — who say, it is time, high time, to draw the line. — A kind of a half Poet, in N. Jersey, has given his opinion of the new Divinity system in the following 4 lines —

"You can & you cant,  
You shall & you shant,  
You will & you wont,  
You'll be damn'd, if you dont."

I have lately rec<sup>d</sup>. Letters from London, Bristol, & Liverpool, our cause appears there to be flourishing, tho' it pleased GOD in the M<sup>o</sup>. of July last to remove by Death 4 valuable ministers of our Denomination, viz, M<sup>r</sup>. Trivett & M<sup>r</sup>. Utting, near Norwich, M<sup>r</sup>. Walker in Buckinghamshire, and old M<sup>r</sup>. Ryland of Northampton! Lord calls these to survivors, particularly in the ministry, to be also ready! — In Phil.<sup>a</sup> our cause is rather low,



Phil<sup>a</sup> June 22. 1793.

may Jehovah of his infinite Mercy lift upon  
us the light of his Countenance & enable us  
to rejoice in his great Salvat<sup>n</sup>.! — The  
hostile Indians have at last listned to pro-  
posals for an accomodation, & have consen-  
ted to hold a Treaty with Commissioners, at 8, I  
the Opening of the leaves in the Spring, &  
in the mean while to bury the Tomahawk —  
Oh that a universal Peace may take place  
among contending Nations, and the whole Earth  
be filled with the knowledge & glory of the  
Prince of Peace! — Thro' mercy my family  
are in health, excepting colds, we write in  
Christian Love to you & your's — With real  
esteem, I subscribe myself, very dear & Rev.  
Sir, your Friend & Brother, Wm. Rogers

Rev. Mr. Backus.

witchcraft —

I also unde

Wm Rogers Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 1881.  
Rec. May 5. 1898.  
J. B.



Phil<sup>a</sup>: June 22. 1793.

Rev. & dear Sir,

I duly rec<sup>d</sup>. your's of March 7<sup>th</sup>.

I should have ans<sup>d</sup>. it immediately but have been wait<sup>ing</sup> for returns relative to the sale of your Pamphlet on the Kingdom of GOD, 12 Copies of which I now send back & stand indebted to you for 38, I have used my best endeavors to dispose of them all, but find it im- possible. Should you wish to send any other of your Publications to Phil<sup>a</sup>: for sale, I would recommend your committing them to the care of Bro<sup>r</sup>. Ustick as he is in that way, & consequently will have it in his power to serve you better than I can, my time being so much engross'd with the necessary duties of the Univ<sup>ty</sup>. &c &c. — In inclination to oblige you I will yield to no one, but this alone won't answer — there must be exertion, for which Bro<sup>r</sup>. Ustick has frequent opportunities to which I am a stranger — the 38 Copies

Ingratitude is worse than the sin of Witchcraft

come to <sup>abt</sup> ~~abt~~ 2 Doll. &  $\frac{1}{2}$  ~~& a fraction more~~, if I reckon right,  
however you will let me know & the money shall  
be paid <sup>here</sup> or sent <sup>on</sup> as you direct. — I have lately  
rec<sup>d</sup>. a number of Letters from my valuable English  
Correspondents, viz, Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Booth, Rippon, Bulston &  
Dore of London — Medley of Liverpool — Pearce of  
Birmingham — Richards of Lincol. &c — Dr. Rippon  
on the 3<sup>d</sup>. Lord's Day in Feb<sup>y</sup>. baptized 22 Persons  
& Mr. Pearce at Birmingham in the course of 5  
Months had baptized 38 and as many more  
under serious awakening — he writes me there was  
a greater religious stir at Birmingham & more  
evangelical preaching than there had been before dur-  
ing his Residence there — Oh for the good work to  
spread far & wide, & may the present European  
Commotions terminate in the spread of the pure Gos-  
pel & the advancement of a precious Redeemer's  
kingdom throughout the whole world! —



In Mr. Richards's parcel was a Letter for you & 2  
 Treatises - One of the treatises, which ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> against the  
 principles of the Quakers, Dr. S. Jones has with him  
 at Lower Dublin & says he will take it on to yourself  
 himself as he proposes being at Providence Convent.  
 This Mr. Richards requested Dr. Jones to read - the  
 other, which you will see is a small Pamphlet, and  
 the Letter I now enclose. -

Vital Piety & practical Godliness among us Phila-  
 delphians is at a low Ebb - Our Society in particular  
 is in a truly languishing State, we are hardly known  
 or barely have a Name among the great Multitude.  
 Oh how different is the Acct. you give me of our De-  
 nomination in the Eastern States - the perusal of  
 it refreshed me abundantly & I gave God thanks.

Mr. Rogers has been very unwell, she is now better  
 tho' apparently in a declining way - Our Son is in  
 health & a member of the Junior Class in the Univ. Phila-  
 of Penna. - we all unite in much affection to you - Sir

self, Mr. Backus & the whole family. — You will  
probably wonder at it, but till you mentioned in your  
last letter Eder Hindle's being brought to confess &c  
I never had even heard of any pamphlet whatever  
he had published ag<sup>t</sup> you — One thing I can sincerely  
say — I never want to see it! — I rejoice in the Recon-  
ciliation of the 2 Churches — Truly the Lord is good!

I thank you for the minutes of your Aps<sup>ts</sup>. — the  
Corrections & Additions for Mr. Asplund's Req<sup>t</sup>. shall be  
handed him on his arrival in this City, he is now somewhere  
at the Southward — I will mention your request  
respect<sup>g</sup> the 2 Doll<sup>s</sup>. — Mr. Edwards cordially thanks  
you for the Errata you pointed out in his N. J. Volume.

Please to accept of a copy of the Phil<sup>l</sup>. Edit<sup>n</sup>. of Mr. Booth's  
excell<sup>t</sup>. sermon on the Slave Trade — also a judiciously  
abridged Catechism<sup>m</sup>, <sup>by a Baptist</sup> which you may probably think worthy  
of a New England Impression — I imported a n<sup>o</sup>. of copies  
to give away. — I put you up a few News Papers.  
(Rev. Mr. Backus) 2<sup>d</sup> in the best of bonds, W. Rogers.



Providence Aug. 2. 93.

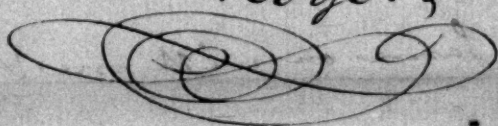
Rev. & dear Sir,

I wrote you from Phil.<sup>a</sup> & enclosed a Letter <sup>&c</sup> from M<sup>r</sup>. Richards, the parcel was directed to the Care of D<sup>r</sup>. Stillman. In the Letter I mentioned D<sup>r</sup>. Jones having one of the Books that M<sup>r</sup>. Richards sent you, I brought the same on with me & now forward it. I left Phil.<sup>a</sup> the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. & must be there again by the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst., so that I have to forego the pleasure of <sup>personal</sup> an interview with you. Pray have you seen D<sup>r</sup>. Hopkins's System of Div<sup>y</sup>., our N. York Brethren are quite out with him, they showed me a note wherein he compares our Denomination to Balaam & to the Scribes & Pharisees — "Ingratitude is worse than the sin of Witchcraft" — I also understand the

D<sup>r</sup>. Seabury the Episcopal Bishop in Connecticut,  
in a set of Sermons lately published by him, reflects  
much on our Society & opprobriously styled us,  
Anabaptists —

Surely these would be great  
men are fit company for Balaam's Ass! —

With respects to M<sup>r</sup>. Backus, I am, dear Sir,  
yours affectionately,

Wm Rogers  


Rev. M<sup>r</sup>. Backus.

William Rogers,  
Aug. 2. 1793.  
Ac. Sept. 17. 1793.









Phil<sup>a</sup>. Decr. 6. 93.

my dear Sir,

Before this reaches you, you will have heard of my heavy loss in the death of my dear M<sup>r</sup>. Rogers, she departed this life Oct<sup>r</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup> full of submission to Jehovah & strong confidence in the Lord her Righteousness — My dear & only Son with myself are left to mourn — Oh that we may not mourn — She was a firm Baptist but no Bigot — a pattern of virtue — & an Ornament to Religion — I could dwell long on her excellencies, but she is gone — and I must be still — It was a stroke indeed — I feel it — a stroke from that Being who is too wise to be mistaken & too good to be unkind — May I be prepared to meet her in that happy world where Sin & Sorrow are never known —

The week following her decease, I was taken down with the fever myself, I expected to die & be with Jesus; Glory to God, my composure of mind was uniform, the dark valley began to appear like a flowered path — when contrary to my own expectation & that of my Neighbours & Attendants I was

raised from a bed of malignant sickness & am now in  
comfortable <sup>bodily</sup> health — My Son, who was my constant  
Nurse, providentially escaped the disorder — so that as  
a spared Monument of divine Goodness I can sensibly  
speak both of the Judgment & Mercy of the Eternal  
A.M. — Good old Dr. Syroast's family have become  
nearly extinct; himself, Wife, a Daughter, a Son,  
& Son's Wife having all died! —

I have rec<sup>d</sup>. a number of Letters by the Fall Vessels from  
England, one from Mr. Richards of Lynn was accom-  
panied with 100 Copies of his late excellent Treatise  
on Baptism — in the distribution he allots 6 for you,  
these are now forwarded with 6 Copies for the Boston  
Ministers to the care of Dr. Stillman.

Since my return from R. Island I have rec<sup>d</sup>. 2 Lett<sup>rs</sup>  
from you — One dated June 12 — this came to hand the  
27<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>t</sup>. — The other dated Aug<sup>t</sup>. 31 — this came to  
hand the 11<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup>. — the Day on which my lovely  
Partner was taken to the Grave — this letter as it  
spoke so fully of a glorious Revival at Plymouth and



many other places, I have with many other Articles sent on to Dr. Rignerson our mutual Friend. —

In your letter of June 12. you mention forwarding me 12 pieces to sell at 9<sup>¢</sup> each — I am sorry to inform you that notwithstanding my most diligent Enquiries, they have never as yet come to hand — neither can I hear any thing of them — Mr. Edwards got his history, which came at the same time, but who sent it to him from Phil<sup>a</sup>, neither he or I have <sup>ever</sup> ~~never~~ found out.

How comes it to pass that my Letters to you are so long in reaching you — you mention one of mine of Dec<sup>r</sup>. 10. 92. being rec<sup>d</sup>. on May 5. 93. Astonishing!

The 2½ Dollars which I owe you, shall as soon as a good opportunity offers be conveyed, agreeably to your direction, to the care of Elder Baldwin. — It is now very late at night & I must conclude — Present my affectionate Regards to Mr. Backus & your family — Oh pray for me that I may be supported under my sore bereavement — Our old Friend Saml. Davis has also lost his Wife — Yours in great Affliction. W<sup>m</sup>. Rogers.

Answered in May 1794.  
I wrote again to him Nov. 30. 1794.

Wm. Rogers  
Dec. 6. 1793.  
Dec. April 24. 1794.  
S. 23.



Philad<sup>a</sup>. April 14 . 1795.

Rev. & Dear Sir,


A Combination of Causes has prevented my addressing you for some time past, it is with pleasure that I once more resume my pen in order to inform you of my welfare &c. — I am sorry that my Letters to you have either so repeatedly miscarried or been so long in getting to hand — What can be the Reason? — Your favor of May 9. 1794. was a great while on it's passage to this City — that of Nov<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>. reached me in much shorter time — for both of which you have my thanks — Before this I dare say you have heard of my having once more formed a Matrim<sup>l</sup>. Connection — my present wife like my former is a good & religious Baptist — she is a worthy Member of our Church & peculiarly calculated, should God spare her life, of rendering me much assistance both in my temporal & spiritual progress — you see by this that I <sup>have</sup> married in the Lord — our union took place on Jan<sup>y</sup>. 15<sup>th</sup>. & we join in soliciting an Interest in your prayers.

You must have also heard of the Death of the Rev.<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup>.  
Morgan Edwards, he departed Jan<sup>y</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup>. — At his own re-  
quest I preached his funeral sermon from 2. Cor. 6. 8 .  
the congregation was numerous & attentive! — May you,  
my dear Sir, though advanced in years, be spared for a long  
while to come to promote a Redeemer's Cause & to serve  
what is so intimately connected with it the Baptist  
Interest in the world! — The news your last letters  
communicate respecting the spreading of Religion, the forma-  
tion of new churches &c was truly refreshing — I wish it  
were in my power to enliven your heart with the same  
good tidings — but here an awful deadness prevails,  
though our Church enjoys great peace & fellowship.

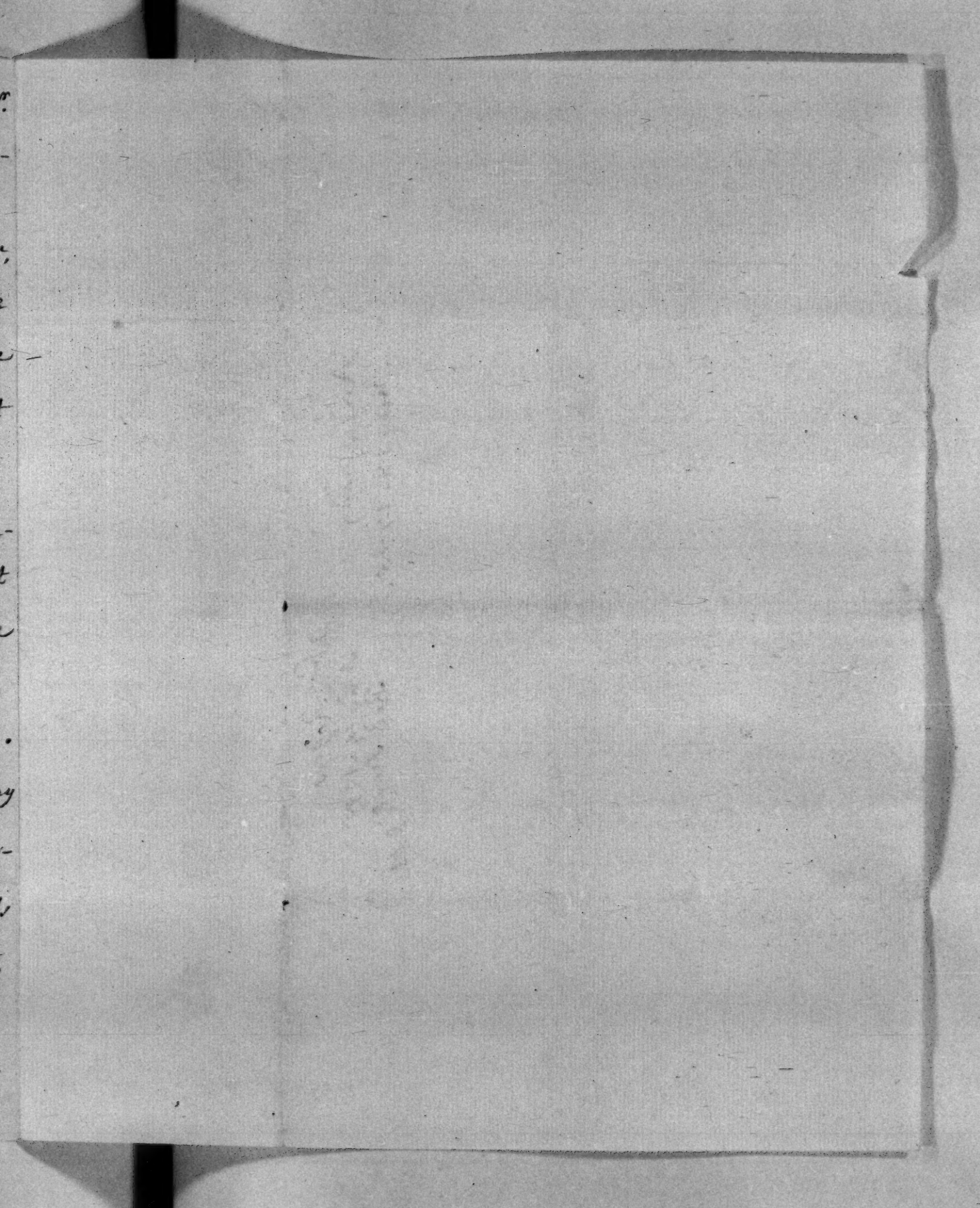
My dear M<sup>r</sup>. Rogers is at present very unwell — my  
son is in health — we beg your & M<sup>r</sup>. Backus's accep-  
tance of our sincere regards — From, my dear Sir, your's  
in a precious Saviour,

M<sup>r</sup>. Rogers

Rev. M<sup>r</sup>. Backus.







Answered  
May 18. 1795.

Wm. Rogers  
April 14. 1795  
Recd. May 5. 9. 12.



Philad<sup>a</sup>. June 10. 1795.

Dear Sir,

Your agreeable favor of May 18. with Mr. Baldwin's sermon, your Afo<sup>n</sup>. Minutes, & proposals for a continuation of your history, came to hand the 11<sup>th</sup>. Inst. — By some means it got into the Post office at N. York, 4 oz: was marked on it — the postage was 1 Dol. 62 Cents — Do, my dear Sir, in future, either send to me by some person coming directly to Phil<sup>a</sup>. or by any of the vessels which <sup>sail</sup> trade from Boston immediately for this port — The postage which I am obliged to pay in the course of a year would surprise you — I must try to remedy it! — Your Letter contained such pleasing information that as I was just then making up a parcel for Dr. Rippon I forwarded it to him, where it will do more good than on my files — the increase of our interest in N. England is astonishing — GOD will own & bless divine truth! —

Accept my thanks for the sermon & the Afo<sup>n</sup>. Minutes. —

The proposals for your History are distributed or transmitted as follows — Mr. Ustick 1. with whom I have subscribed.  
Mr. Fleeson 1. Mr. Smalley of Cohasset 1.  
Mr. Wilson 1. Mr. Richards of Baltimore 1.  
Mr. Button, Dr. Rippon, and Mr. Wm. Richards,  
all of England, each 1. My University & va-

rious other engagements render it totally impossible for me to attend particularly to any business of this nature - I shall to the utmost of my power assist Brother Ustick, who has cheerfully undertaken it. - Moreover it will be altogether in Brother Ustick's way, as he is about opening a Book & Station<sup>ary</sup> Store &c - As our English Brethren are in the habit of sending Books & <sup>pamphlets</sup> ~~Stationary~~ to him for sale - I wish all my N. England Friends would do the same - he can do them justice - I cannot! - Pray don't impute these wishes of mine to any want of affection towards you or others - my Love is the same - pure necessity is my apology! - By the Spring Vessels from London I rec<sup>d</sup>. Letters from several of our ministering Brethren, from which I have published copious extracts in our News Papers - Mr. Pearce's Letter contains very pleasing information respecting the East-India Mission - he sent me N<sup>o</sup>. 1 of the Periodical Papers relative to it - a publication which is to be continued! - By a Letter from Savannah which came to hand the 23<sup>d</sup>. Ult: though it was dated Feb<sup>y</sup>. 24. Bro<sup>r</sup>. M. J. Rhee informs me that he trusted the Lord had sent him to that Land of Liberty, full of Slaves, to save Souls - he tells me that his Journal will make me weep & smile - At Savannah he preached 4 Lord's Days, 3 times a day, besides weekly lectures, & his labors were abundantly blessed! - The poor Africans, he writes me, have been deprived of the



privilege of meeting together to worship GOD! — ~~P~~  
Andrew, their black minister, <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ ready to break his heart —  
Through the exertions of Mr. Rhees, a house <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ to be built  
immediately for them in Savannah so as to contain the  
black & white People together, by this mean it was hoped  
the suspicion of the Magistrates would be removed —  
the house will be 60 feet by 50 with Galleries! —

But my Friend Backus asks, Who is Mr. Rhees? — I'll  
tell you — he is one of our ministers from Wales, comes  
warmly recommended, is a good Scholar, an excellent  
Preacher, & means before he returns to Europe to take  
the whole tour of the U. States — he is a staunch Re-  
publican & calls himself a Citizen of the world! —

Through mercy my dear wife & son are in health, we  
unite in affectionate Regards to self, M<sup>r</sup>. Backus, &  
all Friends. — From, Dear sir, your Friend, Brother,  
& Serv<sup>t</sup>. in the Bonds of the Gospel,

Wm. Rogers

Rev. Mr. Backus.

June 19. This week I rec<sup>d</sup>. from England, very long  
Letters from Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Booth, Button, Richards, & D. M. Jones;  
In Mr. Richards's Bundle there was a Parcel for you,  
which I now enclose. —

Wm. Rogers.  
Aug 10. 1795.  
Aug 25.  
J. B. J.

As I recd June 3. 1796.

Wm. Rogers.  




Philad. June 1. 1796.

Dear & Rev. Sir,

I have addressed you by Letter twice, since I had the pleasure of receiving a line from you - Thos infinite mercy myself & Family are in health; we unite in very affectionate Regards to you & your's & wish you every blessing in Christ Jesus! - Last Lord's Day P. M. we had a short discourse from Mr. Nelson of your Church, he dined & took tea with me yesterday, & appears to be a promising young Man - My sermon on the Death of Mr. Hart is enclosed for your acceptance; & also 2 or 3 pamphlets I have lately rec<sup>d</sup>. from London, occasioned by the Apostacy of one Peter Edwards, who was at first an Independent - then a Baptist & Pastor of a Baptist Church at Portsea - & now an Independent again - he has, I understand, published a book which he styles "Candid Reasons &c, wherein he abuses

our denomination in general & the pious Mr. Booth  
in particular - The <sup>Improved</sup> ~~new~~ System of Logic is by the  
Rev. Mr. Dore - who the nature of N. York is I can  
not inform you - A variety of pieces have been pub-  
lished against the Turn-coat; all of which I should  
like to see. - I wish to write more, but other  
business enforces a conclusion -

Affectionately yours,

Wm. Rogers



Apr. 12. 1892

Mr. O. J. ...

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Answeerd, Mar. 18. 1797.

William Rogers.

June 1. 1798

Rei. June 24.

J. B.

Dear Mr. Rogers.



Phil<sup>a</sup>. Nov. 19. 96.

Wm. Rogers,  
Nov. 19. 1796.  
Rec. Jan. 22. 97.  
L. B.

Rev. & Dear Sir,

I wrote to you the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of  
last June, enclosing a copy of my Sermon on the  
death of Mr. Hart - to which I have rec<sup>d</sup>. no answer,  
I hope it got safe to hand. -

Your acceptable favor of June 3. came to hand  
Aug<sup>t</sup>. 16. - Accept, my dear Sir, my grateful acknowl-  
edgm<sup>t</sup> for the 3<sup>d</sup>. Vol. of your valuable Hist<sup>y</sup>. - It  
has been read by several, & strange to tell, on the  
Morning of our general Election for Electors &c - an  
Extract from it under the signature of Wm. Penn made  
it's appearance in one of our daily papers - to this  
moment I & am a stranger to the Extractor & was  
greatly surprised to see it, as it's design was to an-  
swer a political purpose - however it has pro-  
cured celebrity for your whole Hist<sup>y</sup>. - & several Gentlem<sup>n</sup>.  
in conspicuous Stations mean to possess themselves  
of complete sets of the same - for which purpose

Mr. Ustick, who has opened a respectable Book-store,  
has written to Boston. —

Terich Goxe, Esq. having borrowed my Set, speaks of  
the performance in the highest terms, & says there ought  
to be at least 100 Set scattered thro' the different  
Counties of Penns<sup>a</sup>. — Mr. Goxe is an illuminated  
Episcopalian — a firm Federalist — a staunch Republican —  
an advocate for unsheltered Religious Lib<sup>y</sup>. — & a Master  
of real Science! — He is Commissioner of the Revenue  
of the U. States! —

Enclosed are also a Paper containing the French Min-  
ister's Reasons (in part) for the suspension of Official Duty —  
The Acts & proceed<sup>gs</sup>. of the Presbyt<sup>n</sup>. Genl. Assembly for  
95. & 96. — & a Copy of our As<sup>s</sup>. Minutes —

My lovely Daughter, who will be 5 M<sup>th</sup>s old next  
Monday was inoculated a 2<sup>d</sup>. time for the Small Pox —  
10 Days ago — we think she has now taken it & will  
have it favorably, tho' we feel much parental Anxiety!

Mr. Rogers is in comfortable health & we write in  
very affectionate Regards to Self, Mr. Backus, & your  
whole family — I have for the greatest part of



of the time, since July last, officiated for the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in this City, a very large & elegant build<sup>ing</sup>. - their Pastor, Dr. Ewing, being in a weak state of Body. - W. Ustick baptized 3 women last Saturday, though upon the whole I never witnessed such a low Estate of Religion in the Metropolis & all around us - Oh that Jehovah would revive his work! -

A mixed Communion Church has lately been formed in this City, consisting mostly of British Emigrants - they are few in N<sup>o</sup>. - but mostly Baptists & sound Calvinists! - We have besides in Phil<sup>a</sup>. - an Arian Society - a Socinian also - & if I am rightly informed, an infidel Club!!! - The following are the regular Societies with the N<sup>o</sup>. of their places of worship: -

|                             |                                                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Baptists - 1.               | Quakers - 4.                                       |
| Episcopalians - 3.          | Free d <sup>o</sup> - 1.                           |
| African d <sup>o</sup> - 1. | Lutherans - 2.                                     |
| Sweedes - 1.                | Germ <sup>n</sup> . Calvinists - 1.                |
| Rom. Catholics - 4.         | Jews - - - 1.                                      |
| Presbyterians - 4.          | Universalists - 1.                                 |
| Scotch d <sup>o</sup> - 2.  | <u>30</u> Buildings -                              |
| Moravians - 1.              | One of the Rom <sup>n</sup> . Catholics - will not |
| Methodists - 2.             | be finished till next Summer.                      |
| African d <sup>o</sup> - 1. |                                                    |

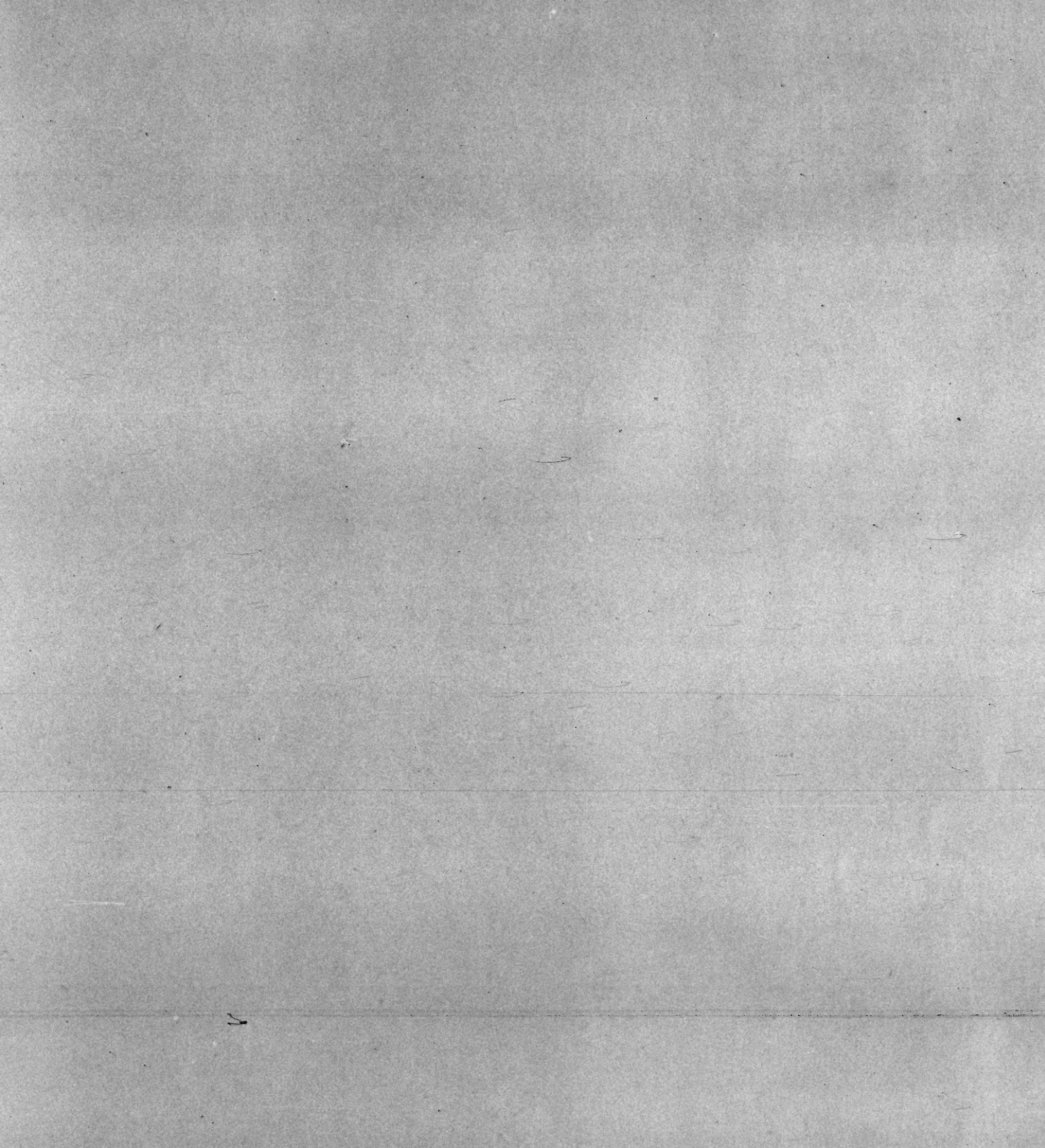
I wish when you introduced my name in your 3<sup>d</sup> Vol. - you had mentioned my Station in the Univ<sup>y</sup>. of Penns<sup>a</sup>. - not so much for myself as for the sake of our College - but probably it is for the best - as all honor from Men is nothing more than a bubble! -

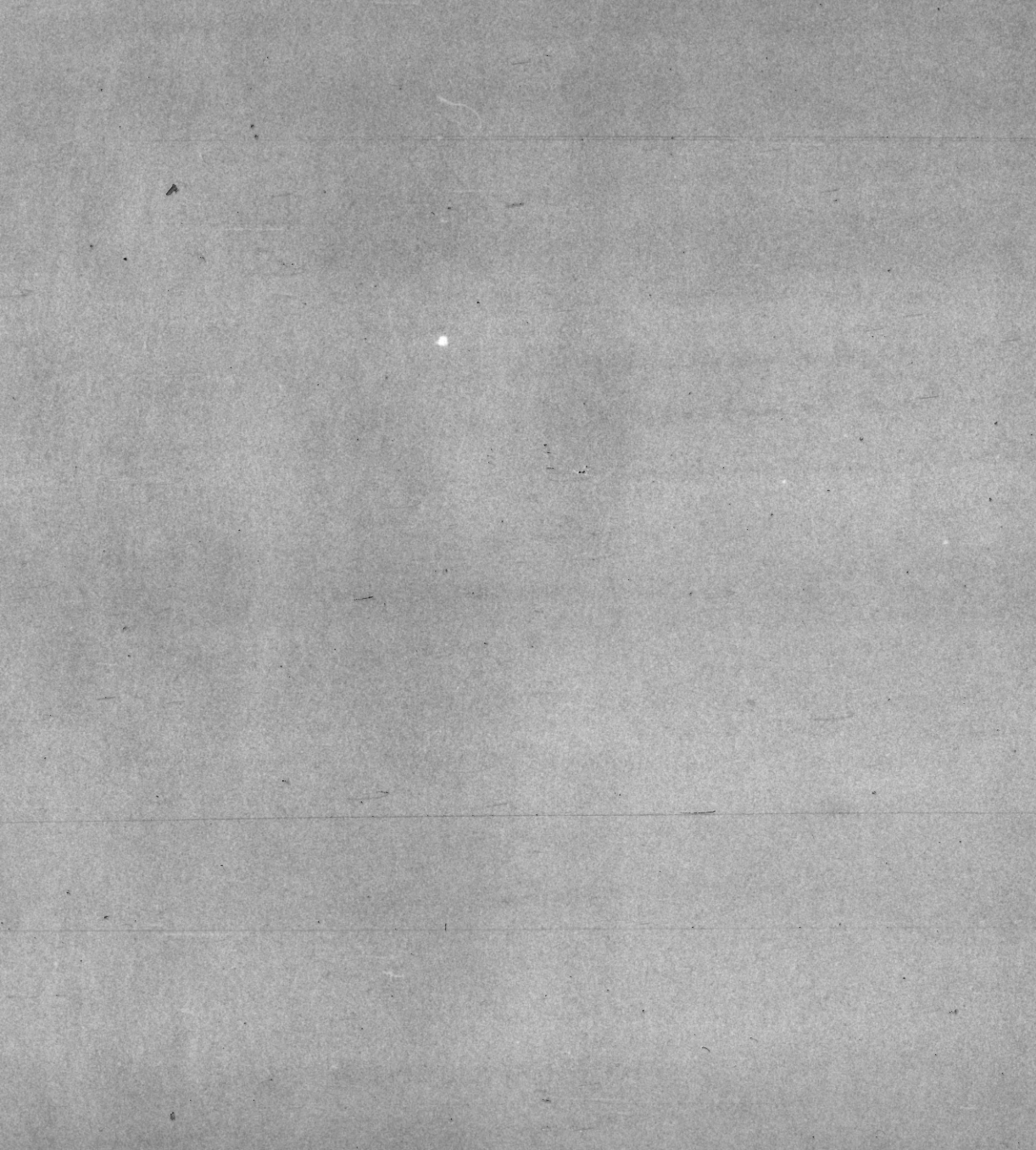
I have rec<sup>d</sup>. numerous letters from Europe lately - my Correspondents in England are from 15 to 20 - and in America from 50 to 70 - which with my Univ<sup>y</sup>. Duties, ministerial Concerns, charitable institutions, domestic attentions &c &c - keep me, you may well suppose, constantly employed! - Oh that I may be employed in doing good & finish my Course with Joy! -

That Almighty God may continue to be your Supporter - strengthen you in every good word & work - preserve your truly valuable life for many years - & at last receive you into his Heavenly Kingdom - is & shall be the fervent prayer of your most unworthy Bro<sup>r</sup>. in the best of all worlds - even the Land of unchangeable Grace!

Wm. Rogers.









Phil<sup>a</sup> March 3. 1797.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you June 1. & Nov<sup>r</sup>. 19. of last year, with enclosures, to neither of which I have rec<sup>d</sup>. an answer - what can be the reason?

I wish much, very much to hear from you - I think you must have written & that the letters have miscarried! -

The proposals for printing by subscription a new translation of Solomon's Song, are by a Friend & correspondent of mine, M<sup>r</sup>. T. Williams of London, who attends M<sup>r</sup>. Buttolson's meeting -

Should you wish for a copy, you had better <sup>request</sup> Dr. Rippon to forward it to you - as an Author, you will see, M<sup>r</sup>. Williams is greatly admired.

Thrs infinite mercy my family are in health, M<sup>r</sup>. Rogers unites in Christian love to self, M<sup>r</sup>. Backus & your Children - Religion among us - is almost at it's lowest ebb - Oh for a time of

revival from the presence of the Lord! —

Sometime ago a number of English emigrants formed a mixed or free communion church in this City — they have lately resolved upon becoming a regular Baptist Church under the title of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Baptist Church of Phil<sup>a</sup>. — and though they meet with some opposition from a quarter which <sup>instead of opposing</sup> ought to encourage them, I make no doubt but that they will prosper — at present they have a Mr. Joshua Jones from Lincoln, Old England, to preach for them, who is well recommended by Dr. Fuller, Mr. Sutcliffe &c. — they have hired a School house for a place to worship in, but talking of purchasing <sup>a</sup> lot to build on.

The tragical catastrophe of Andrew Brown, Printer & his family, having been destroyed by fire the 27<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup>. in this City, I dare say you must have heard — in the Evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup>. preceeding an alarming fire broke out in our University Yard & destroyed the Roofs of two Houses — <sup>Ruin for a season</sup> Destruction stared me & mine in the face as my habitation is under



a roof contiguous to what was burnt — my family were removed & my most valuable things, but owing to a kind & gracious Providence, the flames were arrested in their progress, & we were preserved — the loss I experienced was but trifling — Oh help me to praise the Lord for his goodness, for his mercy endureth forever! — Do write to me soon & often — and believe me to be your's in a dear Redeemer,

Wm. Rogers

Rev. Mr. Backus.

May 18. 1861

William Rogers

Mar. 3. 1797.

Recd. Mar. 14.

L. 23.

Answered Mar. 18. 1797.



Phil<sup>a</sup> June 9. 1797.

Rev. & Dear Sir,

Your favor of March 18.

I rec<sup>d</sup> April 19. for which & the enclosures I  
thank you - I hope that ere this your health is  
fully established & that your valuable life may  
for a long time be continued among our Churches  
on Earth! - The acc<sup>t</sup> you give of the success of  
the Gospel in many places is truly comforting;  
while we ought to take it up for a lamentation,  
that infidelity, corruption, & error are so  
generally prevalent - may the Lord pour  
out of his Spirit on all flesh! -

Next Lord's Day week, Mr. Staughton from  
England, Principal of the Academy at Bridenton,

is to be ordained in virtue of an act of the  
the Church at Jacob's Town - Dr. Jones, Mr.  
Ustick, Mr. Wilson, & myself with Mr. Allison,  
are the Ministers fixed upon - the most of  
us will try to be there - Mr. Staughton is  
a pious man & a truly evangelical Preacher.

Through infinite mercy my dear Family are  
in health - Mr. Rogers united in Christian love  
to self, Mrs. Backus, & all your's -

I am in haste, having just heard of the  
opportunity, & my Class in waiting for re-  
citation - The enclosed letter came to me  
in a small parcel from London -

I remain, as always, your's in the  
best of bonds,  
Wm Rogers.



Do you wish ~~the~~ to see the American  
Annual Register for 1796 - It containing  
abundance of political & religious matter,  
it is a severe book on many men & the  
most of manners - Your name & book  
~~are~~ introduced with much respect - the  
price is 1 Dollr. &  $\frac{1}{8}$  - I can get you one  
for a Dollar, it is about the size of your  
last vol. - half bound & lettered, -

I am sure you would get much store by  
it, had you it in possession! -

Wm Rogers.

June 9. 1797.

Rec. June 16.

2. 13.

Answered, July 31. 1797.

Another answer Aug. 15. 1797.

And again Sept. 23. 1797.



Phil<sup>a</sup>. Nov. 7. 99.

Dear Sir -

Last June was a twelve-month since I forwarded you a letter by a post-hole, via R. Island, and once since but I omitted mounting it - to neither of which I have rec<sup>d</sup>. ~~an~~<sup>an</sup> answer - what can be the reason? - The enclosed is from the Rev. Mr.

Richards of Old England - I rec<sup>d</sup>. it with some others Day before yesterday - his to me was written in June last. - Mr. Richards wishes to procure certain documents from you relative to Roger Williams, for want of which his intended vol. of biographical memoirs is quite at a stand - with those documents he thinks he will be able to give a list<sup>?</sup> of our Socy. from the British Jarnes 1<sup>st</sup> - to Geo. the 3<sup>d</sup>. - Can't you, my dear Sir, gratify him? -

I send you a copy of our last Afs<sup>n</sup>. minutes - I wish much for the Warren Afs<sup>n</sup>. minutes of 1798 & this year - will you furnish me - I want them

For my file. — Our University duties re-commenced on  
Monday last, we were shut up as an Institution 3 Months  
& an  $\frac{1}{2}$  — The Lord is righteous in all his ways, tho'  
we are thus tried. — It is a dull season in this City with  
respect to Religion — the Judgments of GOD do not  
seem as yet to reclaim the Citizens — Oh for the Out-  
pourings of Jehovah's Spirit! — Tho' myself  
& family are as well as usual, we unite in very af-  
fectionate regards to you & Mrs. Backers,

From your Friend & Bro.,

Wm. Rogers.

Wm. Rogers,  
Nov. 7. 1799,  
Residence. 23. 70

Answered  
May 21. 1800.



Phil<sup>a</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. 20. 1799.

Dear Sir,

The 5<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> I rec<sup>d</sup> your favour of the 23<sup>d</sup> of Sept. — for which I feel myself much, very much obliged to <sup>you</sup> — My letter to you of June 7. 1798. was forwarded by a Capt. Cole of Bristol or Warren, R. Isl<sup>de</sup> & of Jan<sup>y</sup>. in this year, by a Gentleman going to Provid<sup>ence</sup> — The first with Enclosures, the Salopian Tealot &c — What can have become of them, must be a difficulty to ascertain — tho' probably, by a little enquiry, they may yet come to light! —

The 7<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>: I wrote you again, under cover to my Bro<sup>r</sup>. Joseph, enclos<sup>d</sup>. another letter from Mr. Richards of Lynn — which I hope you have obtained. —

The kind epistles you allude to, as hav<sup>g</sup>. sent me, I begin now to fear are lost; ~~to~~ — So uncertain, as you justly observe, are things in this evil world.

Our Metropolis is now all pensiveness on acc<sup>t</sup>. of the death of the venerable Washington — The U. States have most assuredly lost a Friend & a uniform Patriot!

I hope this letter will find you restored to health, & that your valuable life may be protracted for many years to come, as a blessing to our Baptist Israel & the Church of GOD generally. — The revivals of re

ligion you speak of, are peculiarly illustrative of the glorious doctrines of Grace - "The wind bloweth where it listeth". - Oh for the outpourings of the same Spirit in this City - where spiritual deadness is pre-eminently apparent & extreme wickedness boldly triumphant! -

Bro. Baldwin transmitted me his printed details of the many revivals - verily if God works, none can bet!

New Britain Church in our associated connection & one or two more are, at this time, under similar visitations of kindness from the Almighty - tho' not to so great a degree! - We will give thanks even for the day of small things! -

You will see, by the enclosed Aurora, that I have made some use of that part of your excell<sup>t</sup> letter, which relates to the shameful oppression of our Brethren in Massachusetts - The introductory remarks are by the Editor of the Aurora himself. - In one or two instances, in the extract itself, I took the liberty of altering the phraseology only - but strictly adhering to the sense! -

I trust this publication at the seat of Gov<sup>t</sup> & in these Middle States - will, if no other good be produced thereby,



cause a relaxation of some sort to take place in the  
System of N. England despotism! . . —

Thro' infinite mercy Mr. Rogers & our little ones  
are in usual health — tho' she has been expecting  
for a short while past another confinement to her  
Chamber — but she yet keeps about, & we unite  
in Christian regards to self, Mr. Backus, & all the  
family — Very affectionately your Friend & Bro'r

Wm Rogers

On Tuesd<sup>y</sup> Evening last, one Rickets at his Livens  
in Chestnut Street,  
was about representing the Infernal Regions, the open-  
ing of the Mouth of hell, fulphureous flames &c  
— and all at once the City was alarmed by the cry of  
fire — it broke out at the Livens, consumed that entirely,  
a large & elegant hotel adjacent — & 5 or 6 new  
buildings besides — What shall we say of this instant  
connection between a crime & its punishment? —

Answered  
May 21. 1800.

Wm. Rogers,

Dec. 20. 1799,

Feb. 26. 23. 1800.

P. 23.



Dear Brother,

October 1.<sup>st</sup> 1790

Not having Rec<sup>d</sup>. any intelligence from you  
Since your Letter dated the 5.<sup>th</sup> October 1789. has made  
<sup>me</sup> doubt whether my Letters (which I sent by the  
same Vessel) have reached you. I should be  
glad to know, because in them I gave an acc<sup>t</sup>.  
of some Books mentioned in the Invoice which  
were not delivered me by the Captain

The Tobacco-season was <sup>so</sup> near over when  
I rec<sup>d</sup>. your Books, that I could not conveniently  
Purchase so as to make you a Return Leftwinter  
but I expect to find you a Hoaghead of good Tobacco  
this Season either to Boston or Providence.

Religion (Blessed be God) seems to flourish  
in our parts we have Bap.<sup>t</sup> and Re<sup>d</sup>. in <sup>our</sup> Church  
within about 12 Months <sup>Members</sup> 36. A Neighbour-  
ing Minister has lately at two times Bap.<sup>t</sup>  
40 Members and it is supposed there is 20 more  
waiting to follow Christ into the water. I have  
sent you a few Copies of the Minutes of our  
Association. I have not enjoyed My Health for this  
two Months past and am at present exercised with  
sharp affliction which may <sup>Make</sup> an apology <sup>for me,</sup> to my  
dear Brother, for my short and bad writing

I am yours in the Bonds of the Gospel

Martin Roff

Marlin Ross.

Oct. 1. 1790.

Recd. Jan. 24. 1791.

J. B.

Mar. 5. 1791, answered  
this letter, and also sent  
Eder Ross, 50 books on the  
support of gospel ministers,  
and one of our minutes  
for him, and one for  
Eder E. Burkette.









Attleboro' 20th of July 1781.

Dear Sir,

I was informed by M<sup>r</sup>. & M<sup>rs</sup>. Nelson that you desired to exchange with me, which information was — pleasing to me, and satisfying to the People I serve. But as I have been from Home considerable of late, and am to exchange with M<sup>r</sup>. Clarke of Frammingham the Lord's day after next (which appointment was made before I rec<sup>d</sup>. word from you) and by the earnest desire of M<sup>r</sup>. Thuston and People of Newport (he being sick) I thought it duty to appoint to be there (by the Lease of Providence) the very next Lord's day after to exchange with M<sup>r</sup>. Clarke; and our Ch<sup>h</sup> has consented to my supplying the society in Long bridgewater one Lord's day before Association; which must be the last in August; and I having nothing else except a Mair that suckles a Colt: under these circumstances, I should rather omit exchanging — untill after the Association when (it is probable) we shall see each other, and can make the appointment.

I have nothing new, we have trials enough if they had the right affect upon us.

My self and Family are well (through Mercy) and hope these may find you and yours enjoying the same Blessing.

These with my duty to you S<sup>r</sup>. and

Respects to your Family.

Elder Backus.

Job Seamans.

P.S. I wish you could make it in your <sup>own</sup> way to come by here on your way to the  
Association, so that I might have your good company, and if you could  
appoint a lecture here and let me know when by a line when I come to  
Cambridge it would be exceedingly agreeable to me and my people.

Yours, &c.

J. S.

J. S.

Recd. Aug. 10.

Edw. Scammon  
Cotter July 20. 1781



Littleborough May 5 1799.  
Rev<sup>d</sup> & dear Sir.

Brother Stanley who is sent as the Churches Missionary to you will do his own business with you, therefore it is needless for me to write upon that subject. The particular reason of my Writing is this sister Chorley the Widow—where you Preached has been favoured of the Lord with a clear (and in some respects) remarkable Experience and it hath layn with much weight upon her minde to commend some of the Heads thereof to writing that when she is dead she may still speak to her Children. In order to that I lent her my Hand last Winter, but she is not through and what I have done wants rectifying. Therefore she desired me to write to you and try to interceed with you to order your Business so when you came as to spend Monday if no longer with her and assist her in that worke which I think would be an acceptable service to the Lord as well as to her and I doubt not but you will have your reward from both.

I<sup>st</sup> I have sold but a few of them Books but intend to take the remainder with me when I go my journey, and if you have any on Hand and think best you may send a few more and I'll do the best with them that I can.

I<sup>nd</sup> I joyce to hear that the Lord is to worke among you my Soule desire is that his ~~his~~ majesty King Jesus may ride prosperously and spread truth meekness, and righteousnesse through the Earth.

I Rest your Friend and Brother Job Seamans.

Edw. Cameron Esq.  
May 3. 1779.

Recd. May 8.

J. 13.

Dr  
The Revd Isaac Backus

at

Middleborough.



Buckingham Ct. Virginia March 23<sup>rd</sup> 99

Aged and Dear Brother

Altho I never had the pleasure of having a  
Personal acquaintance <sup>with you</sup> yet from seeing and hearing you  
Preach once (in Chestersfield etc at plays meeting house) I  
Think I got an understanding of you, as being an old  
Servant of god shewing the way of salvation, and  
Was much pleas'd with the sweet gospel you preach'd,  
And from reading some books written by you I cordially  
Agree with you in your religious principles, therefore  
Make free to send you these lines by Bro. Brame, to let  
you know that I still remember and love you for the  
Truths sake, I can inform you we have had a sweet revival  
Of the work of god in our church, and a church adjoining  
We have had an addition of about an hundred members,  
Bro Flowers 150 or 200 I believe, but the appearance of  
Convictions has cess'd for some time, we being at so great  
A distance apart that I expect never to see you in this  
World but hope to meet you in heaven, god bless you and  
Make your last days your best days and I remain  
yours in the bonds of Christian love

James Sanders

Jane Sanders

Mar. 23. 1799.

Rec. July 3.

J. B.

Answered July 9. 1799.



Dear Bro. C North Carolina Granville County

Having a little time I write to fill  
it up with a few lines to you the distance  
proceedance has cast us from each other  
with your age & my confinement there  
is not much hopes of seeing you in the  
flesh but I have the happiness of saying  
God is doing great things in our Regions  
in adding such to his Churches as shall  
be saved. Our Ministers are getting more  
uniform in their doctrine since the  
Association appoints Presbyteries for the  
Ordination of <sup>those</sup> that are to be ordained,  
that you & I <sup>may</sup> live to see the out pouring of  
the Spirit in a plentiful manner I  
Recd. Letters from several parts yesterday  
that inform me of thousands getting  
converted of late Churches appear to  
be in Union & more in gag, than  
formerly & Ministers preach with  
more zeal & life. Reflections than  
formerly I pray God that you &  
I may abound more & more in the  
work of the Lord Pray for me &  
let me hear from you while I  
subscribe my self your unworthy  
in Christ's Gospel

A B the Church where I  
formerly live I about so Populous  
lately where I have the care  
about 7

Break Neck  
Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1799

Elder

Isaac Backus

Town & Middleborough

Massachusetts

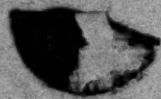
by 1870  
was printed

Isiah Ruckel,

Feb. 15. 1799.

Rec. July 3.

J. B.



Answered July 4. 1799.



Dear Brother,

Springfield Jun 7<sup>th</sup> 1799

An opportunity <sup>Brother</sup> by <sup>Brother</sup> Brame offering, I embrace the chance  
to address a line to my ancient and venerable <sup>Friend</sup> Brother Backus. But as  
he leaves me early in the morning, and it is now almost 12 o'clock at night  
I am obliged to be short. There are in these parts about 100 who  
have join'd together to keep the Faith of Jesus and exercise the pati-  
ence of the Saints. 4 or 6 years ago the good Lord miraculously visited  
us with a remarkable out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, and in one year  
20 Members were added to our Church, and before the blessed <sup>work</sup> finished  
we had in all about 85 or 90 added. "Happy seasons we have seen!"  
But alas! What trying times we have since experienced? Terrible  
fittings and turnings has fallen to our lot, and some (not a few)  
have so turned as to walk no more with us, so that we have now  
in full Fellowship only 106. The deep afflictions which we have  
experienced we hope has made us in some good measure cease from  
man, and look up to God. And our comfort is that Jesus lives and  
will provide. Great complaints of coldness exist in all the neigh-  
bouring Churches, yet respect appearances are rather favourable  
and we are persuad'd there are some Religious <sup>things</sup> amongst the  
people. It is much on my heart (should I, and my Family be  
preserved in health) to visit your part in the course of next  
Summer. It has now been a long time since I have heard any  
thing from you, I hope you will again write, and let me know  
your affairs and how you do. I most sincerely request an  
interest in your prayers, for I am a poor sinner.  
I am Dear Brother, with unfeigned affection, yours, in  
Everlasting Bond.

Martin Ross

Answered July 5. 1799.  
Again Oct. 21. 1799.  
Recd. July 3. 1799.  
Martin's Refs.

Mr. John H. H. H.  
Mr. John H. H. H.

Edw. Isaac Backus









John Cleaveland

Jan. 29. 1793.

Rec. April. 14.

J. B.

Sir, You may remember, that the when I saw you at Rowley,

I was under great in my mind, whether I had not slipped out of my bed, in  
Lion, on coming to this town: no created being but my self, knows what  
I have gone through on that account. Indeed, it appears to me, that I should  
have fainted, and ~~gone~~ under, and been quite overpowered by my trials,  
had it not been for <sup>that</sup> one single text of Scripture, Hab. 2. 3. Not that that was  
the only supporting scripture; but it was the great prop. I trust, I shall have  
cause to bless God for it forever. And now, that you may bless the Lord with  
me, and that, we may exalt his name together, I will give you some account  
of my deliverance.

Last election-day, I preached <sup>a</sup> lecture to our young people, from  
Mark 16. 25. ~~and things from last night~~. Ever after this, our people came more  
generally to meetings, and gave much better attention than usual; but nothing  
special appeared, until I went to Dophinton, to supply the Baptist (Ch. there,  
on Lord-day the 19th. where I administered both ordinances. There had been  
a good work going on since June. As I returned home, my mind was brought  
into great exercise, and the above cited text, with Psalm 27. 4. and 126. 5. 6.  
Rev. 3. 12. &c. came into my mind, and my meditations on them were sweet:  
now I felt great peace in my mind. I saw, to my great satisfaction, that there  
was a blessing <sup>and</sup> for this people. Now, and never ~~but~~ <sup>now</sup>, I gave up Littleborough:  
and as soon as I gave up Littleborough, I took Bedford: since which, I  
have been at home.

The next Lord-day following, I preached ch. 11. from Exod. 14. 12. ~~but~~  
~~the next Monday week, a young man, (excellent in nature) came to see me, and converse about the great concerns~~  
~~of his soul: I found him under heavy conviction, and that, he got his mind~~  
~~under that conviction: he informed, that he thought his life was more distress-~~  
~~ed than he: both of them are now rejoicing in Christ. From that time to this,~~  
I hope, I have preached but few sermons in vain.

Lord-day Sept: 23: was very powerful. Two mid-aged men, <sup>brought</sup> under  
deep soul concern, who with their wives, have been put, and joined to the church.  
I can give you no further particular account, for by this time the town was  
pretty generally alarmed, but few if any families amongst us but what have  
had a share.

This town consists of about 2550. families; and I hope, that between  
40 & 50 souls have been translated out of satanic bondage, darkness, into God's  
marvellous light, in this town besides a number in Sutton & Fiskerfield, who  
congregate with us. Fifteen They are aged, mid-aged, youth and children. Fifteen  
have been baptized, and joined to the church. A number more, I expect, will come  
forward in a short time: indeed, I know not of one of them but what is likely to  
submit to gospel order; nor one person, that I know of in the town, who stands  
in any considerable opposition. As to the work it self, I know not of a dog  
to move his tongue, in this town.



We have lectures, or conferences almost every day, or evening in the week. Our very children meet by ~~themselves~~ <sup>and many</sup> together and converse ~~to~~ with each other. And I believe, I may safely say, that our young people never was one quarter so much engaged in ~~prohibiting~~ <sup>prohibiting</sup>, as they are now, in the great thing which concern their souls and eternity. The work still continues; tho, I believe, there are not quite so many under heavy conviction, as there were some time back.

Some things in this work, exceed any thing I ever saw before. Their conviction ~~has been~~ has, usually, been very clear and powerful; so, that industrious men and women, have had neither inclination or strength, to follow their business, as usual. They freely acknowledge the justice and sovereignty of God. I have put these questions to some of them, Is God just in casting you off forever? A. yes. Would God be just in damning you, though he should save another sinner just as bad as you. Ans. A. yes; he has a right to do what he will with his own. Some have been, <sup>in</sup> such distress, that they thought they should live but a few minutes, and ~~then~~ those with them, have been a fraud they were a dying. When they are delivered, they ~~now~~ usually go into ravel of soul for various females as well as males, children as well as grown people, have this exercise, and come to such a degree, that it has racked and weakened their bodies greatly. Also, they have desires, beyond what I have ever known, for a universal out pouring of the spirit.

Perhaps, my long broken letter will ~~be weary~~ <sup>be weary</sup>, but I have only given you a sketch. I shall only add, that thro' superabounding grace to the vilest, I must say, that for the most part, my mind is comfortable and much encouraged; and I with my wife have abundant reason to bless God, that we hope our oldest child [Sally] is brought into the kingdom, and our eldest son [Charles] has been under amazing distress of mind (I shall never forget his groans; but altho' he is relieved of his burden, yet, he is not clear in his own mind. Others of our children are thoughtful.

I hope Sir, that you enjoy much divine consolation, in the last stage of your journey; as, I doubt not, but you will have many seals of your ministry, which will be stars in your crown forever.

I should have written to brother Robinson, if I had time; please to give my love to him, and if you ~~it~~ please, you may let him see this letter. I likewise desire to be remembered to other ministering brethren. I long to see you and them once more; as also, the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ, in your parts, where I have had such a happy acquaintance.

My wife joins with me, in sending our most dutiful, and sincere love to you and Mrs. Backus.

With sentiments of esteem and friendship, I subscribe, your brother, in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

Job Scamman.

Rev. Isaac Backus.



Wilmington Dec<sup>r</sup> 1748

Bro. Baccas I have ben importuned to request you  
to go to the South part of Plympton to preach  
to a small number of friends: Consider if Request  
If if you will answer it send me word & I will inform  
them you may have Company from my house if I may  
know when you will go: in hast I rest your Real  
Friend

Jared Sears

For Mr.  
John Bees in  
Bridgwater

from D. Sears  
Dec 1448

Dand Sears  
Letter Dec. 1448.



Royston Oct 8 / 1753

Breather Barker I have taken care of the above that you  
left with me concerning your Book and have seen the printer  
and he is willing to do it but he says that he should be glad to  
have the copy within one fortnight I told him I did not think  
that it was likely before a month he said he should be glad that it  
was not extended but he says that he thinks the Book will cost about  
twelve shillings to turn so peace in case you take a Book  
for a hundred but if he is on more the price of the Book will  
be accordingly he says that he will take half money and half  
give

Breather post parks has been at my house since you was and he took  
the contents of your Book and carried it to present yetty and when  
he returns home he proposes to get subscriptions and expects to  
send it to me or you with the money and I am sure you to have the  
Book I believe it is likely that I shall get some considerable  
subscriptions the printer would be glad if you would write your copy  
as plain as you can I have been thinking how better have than a quarter  
of one sheet and then if any one is mind to bind it with paper, and  
to gather they may no more at present but wish you money and peace  
through Jesus Christ Amen

Royston May 14 / 1754

Breather Barker I would inform you that I and my family is about  
house that my brother the yadwell of God but my wife is not well at  
this time I have my providentially an opportunity to write a few  
lines while the man is waiting therefore I can't in large you nothing  
but just give a little hint of things what I mainly mean now is  
to inform you that there is a meeting appointed to be held at Rye  
the 22 day of May instant to consult a Book what may be done  
what the Lord will please to show and give life in this  
concerning the difficulty of our state that the people of the Land  
distraught from us

there is letters gone forth to the separate churches but I have  
something scrupulous whether they have received it or not  
therefore I have improved this opportunity to inform you  
and expect you will inform Breather meads church and as  
many as you can if you think it proper if you go on any  
from your way I expect you will be at my house on  
Monday next we expect to set off from home on Tuesday  
morning men though I have leave no more at present

I remain your well wisher

Richard Seaver

Rich. Seaver  
letter May 14  
1754



To Mr Isaac  
Cochet of  
Middleborough

with care  
from Roxbury  
Oct. 8. 1753

Rich. Sewer  
Letter Oct. 8.  
1753.

I went to  
Boston to  
see Sewer  
on Dec 21. 1753  
and spoke  
with Mr. To  
and Mr. To.

This I did  
to receive the  
Dec 14. 1753.

Thywell J.

For Mr.

For

To Mr Isaac Parker  
Living in  
Middleborough  
to be delivered with  
from Roxbury  
May 22. 1754

5. 1. 4  
13. 6. 8  
18. 8. 0

Thywell J.  
May 21. 1754.

J. Parker



~~March 27 1772~~ March 27 1772  
Mr Samueh Fletcher preached at Dr Lawrence and his Hous was  
assaulted by many at the inhabetence of the town thow I saw them  
not till after meetin I see Cap. Grace woods standing on a  
wall some distance from the Hous others with him I saw them have  
a rail or a pole cap woods cool to the enging that was at the Hous  
to fetch him along I wa at a church meeting and after meeting  
Mr Jonas Vannum asked me if Samueh Fletcher again to preach  
at your <sup>house</sup> I told him he was says I am very sorry that you invite such  
men as he into town to make such disturbance you may go out of town  
to hear him he deserves to have a rope put round his neck and drag out  
of town and that would be good justice June 26 missajah Parker  
Pastor of the baptis Church in Harvard came with him in the afternoon they  
met by a river side for Preaching and he baptizing those persons satisfi  
account of good Dealings With their souls in order for Baptism and  
as Mr Fletcher had a text and began to preach Cor Simon gildon  
Speaks and says let our ministers alone then spoke Mr Jonas  
Vannum you have no business here then spoke Cor woods & Cap Lakin and  
a number of others and said that we should beat him and  
their then as we. Kepted to Dr Lawrence to worship then  
followed a great number of the aposers and mocked all the time  
of worship and the leading men of the town forbid ~~for~~ Mr Parker  
to baptize any where in the limits of the town not with standing  
we retired to another place in order to baptize but not  
with out noise standing by and Joseph Lawrence says to  
Mr Parker when he was going into the water with Mr  
Daniel Davis take the Long Crook Devil in further I hope  
you will keep him in so long that he wont come out again  
and when we were returning back to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Hous  
we were met by the crowd said Cor woods and Cap Lakin and  
many more of the aposers of which Cor woods threatened of whipping  
Mr Fletcher and if you come into town any more you shall be <sup>say he</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~  
out November 2 at a town meeting the twelfth article to see if the town  
will take into consideration a late scandalous peace published in the new  
paper since Grace Backus and act thereon as they shall think proper  
and Cor woods being moderator of the meeting calls for vote & votes  
that they would <sup>act thereon</sup> Cor woods says as for his own part he did not so  
much care as I am so well known in most all the State but I  
regard the civility of the town for says he if I come across  
this Backus I will have my recompense but as for this Fletcher  
if I come across him I will give him a kick in the nose & kick his ass yes says  
Cor Vuting that what we will and many threatening words giving  
out by them a halter is to good for them and where are these  
Baptis if they have any thing to say why dont they speak & soon

N B in July Dr Daniel Fiske came to me and as near  
as I can Remember told me that the select men or comety off seassy  
met at Mr Hubart to see what was best to do concerning the  
affare the town was in and says he we chose a comety of three  
men to go and se those ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> persons that had invited Baptis <sup>here</sup> ~~there~~  
as you call them into town and to discourse with them and se if we  
cant persuade you not to invite them in any more for if you do  
we expect that their will be vilance used and Cap Vuting  
was to go to Dr Lawrence and Cap Lakin was to go and se Mr  
Daniel Davis and my self to se you and if you in sist in it you must  
take what follows



~~Mr. Green~~ September 12 1776  
Mr. Green Backis come to my house and I asked him whether  
he was again to stay in town over the Sabbath and he said  
he was and he would preach with us I asked him whether  
he would preach in the meeting house he says I had as leave  
as not I told Mr Backis that there was many in the town would hear  
the Baptists if they would preach in the meeting house and not creep into  
private houses so Mr Davis and I goes to Mr Hobart as he was the  
Clark and one of the selectmen and told him that Mr Backis was  
in town and asked him whether he was willing that he should  
preach in the meeting house he says we have a minister to occupy  
our pulpit and shall not give leave and therein was Mr Backis  
green therein with him ~~and~~ one of the comeliness of softness and  
they began to find fault with us for inviting such preachers  
into town to make such disturbance and they sayed that they had  
prevented violence being used but they did not desire to any long  
well. said I what will you do what will we do said  
Mr Green why we will fight them said he with what  
said I ~~only~~ with these hands said he making the motion shaking  
his hands with spile in his countenance

I being 40 years of age can testify to the above truths  
Deppill November 16 1778 Simeon Shattuck

Simeon Shattuck

1778

Simeon Shattuck



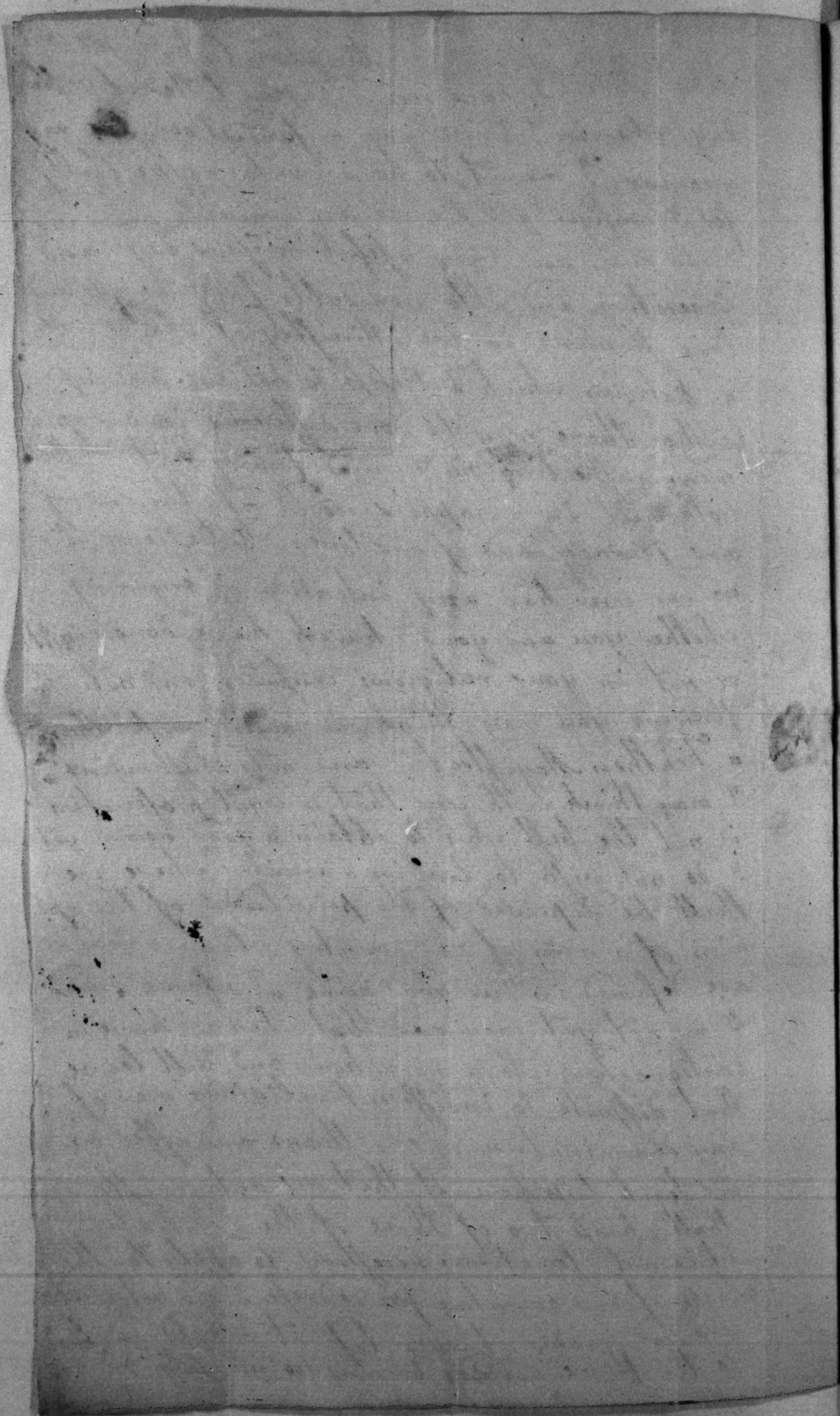






Raynham Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1805

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir. I have received your letter of yesterday. wherein I think you misunderstood ~~the~~ my meaning. I meant to have wrote respectfully for I consider you, Sir, as an amiable and a virtuous man, and very useful in your day and generation, and also venerable for your age and long standing in the Ministry of our Saviour. a Religion which I profess to believe and hope (altho' there may be some difference in our opinions respecting modes and forms) that we shall both meet in a happier world at the end of our journey and of our lives. I believe Sir no one ever had any intention of enquiring whether you and your church have done right or not in your religious censures, and notwithstanding you may think me much worse than a "heathen Magistrate" and notwithstanding I may think with you that a legal prosecution is not the best way to obtain a good name yet I do not wish to live in a country where we shall be deprived of the privilege of the opinion of a jury of our country when we really are defamed in our good name and fame, and I am not yet convinced that when we have a controversy with a neighbour, and will leave that dispute to indifferent religious men of any denomination of christians and offer as Mr Leach says he will that our antagonists shall choose two of three of the arbitrators it is not sometimes necessary to apply to the Laws of our country for redress. I did not write you Mr Leach's charges lest it should add fuel to the flame already burning too intensely





I should be glad of a personal interview with you  
but I fear it will not take place, you after who  
made me a judge &c. I readily answer no one  
ever made me such a thing, the cause if such  
a thing ever exists must be tried in a court  
where twelve men of our country must de-  
cide the merits of the case and not a gaze-  
ttee of the Peace, I wrote a letter to you hop-  
ing tho' unknown to you that at least it  
would do no hurt, I have long wished for  
an acquaintance with you and have repeated-  
ly determined to begin one but it has been  
delayed, I am sorry our correspondence has  
begun in so disagreeable a manner and yet  
hope it will end in mutual Esteem and con-  
fidence, but would repeat that I think  
the religion we both profess would oblige  
either of us when we have a dispute with  
a neighbour to be willing <sup>to</sup> leave it to men  
of candor and religion that are disinter-  
ested to say who is the erring mortal in the  
dispute as I think no one free from mistake  
and aberrations from the line of strict rec-  
titude, I am with respect yours real &c.  
wishes Jonathan Shaw

Rev. Isaac Backus

Rev

Wm. Backus

Middlebury

Gen. Shaw  
Oct. 2. 1805.  
—  
17<sup>th</sup> Oct. 6.  
9 70.



Windsor march the 15 1799

Dear Sir I informe you that I received  
your Letter Dated Aug: 2 1798. and with much  
pleasure Look'd thro' the lines where you  
gave me a short account of a number of our  
Brethren and of your self and family & the  
travel of your mind &c. and I should  
grately Rejoice in writing to all my  
Friends & Brethren in Christ if I felt  
the much needed & powerfull influence  
of the Divine Spirit. But where that  
is wanting all is Dark and Cold.

But since I have opportunity I shall  
try to give you some short sketch of my  
Trials in September 1797 I came into this  
town and bought me a farm being invited &  
incouraged by Elder Smith and the Baptis  
Brethren and it was very agreeable to my  
mind on the count of being privileg'd  
with them and of hearing Elder Smith  
which I greatly admire as a teacher and  
instructor in Righteousness But in  
January 1798 I came to this town to a Chh  
meeting held at E. Smiths house (and to my  
surprise several of the leading men in  
the Chh requested E. Smith to his hall  
and before his wife and family. ~~and the~~  
and it being asked wherein they Requested  
or what that they had against his parson  
or his improvement one of the Deacons which  
seemed to have the greatest influence in

march 20<sup>th</sup> I Craaft the River  
Sardday before last to see the Brethren  
in Cornish and to hear mr Verick Smith  
of Woodstock. and I found some living  
witnesses there for the truth as I believe  
there has this winter and last fall appeared  
to be a glorious work Carried on in Cornish  
and a Considerable number Baptized this  
sever winter I was told that scarcely  
a family in Cornish Except on the River  
Road but what <sup>than</sup> was some under conviction.  
But they begin to dispute about principles  
and the work abates. I saw a man from unity  
) I think I have heard you speak of (one Feacon  
marshal which seems to be alive and  
Bold in Cause ~~the~~ he told me of the glorious  
work Carried on in unity and Newport last  
Summer & fall upwards of 150 hopefull Con-  
vanted and he saith they hold out wonderfully  
and Continue their Conference meetings weekly



turning the mind of the Brethren against  
E<sup>r</sup> Smith arose from his seat and declared  
that he held nothing against E<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup> neither  
his person nor his improvements and said  
that his preaching was agreeable to truth  
But said he I do not seem to be quickened  
under his improvements. and then I spoke  
a few words with liberty (in as much as this  
P<sup>r</sup> Deacon Deford that I might act in f<sup>r</sup>  
meeting) and told them that if we was not  
quickened ~~under~~ such improvements the  
fault was in us not in the minister  
for I must confess that he is the most engaged  
and most livelyest preacher I have heard  
in this State and a very agreeable person in  
private conversation & in his sameloy —  
there was not one in the Ch<sup>h</sup> that brought  
eney thing against him But at another meting  
soon after chose a Comitt<sup>y</sup> to meet the  
Congregational Ch<sup>h</sup> to see if they would  
join and build a Large meetinghouse and  
have preaching together & they agreed and  
shunned Elder Smith out underhandedly  
and he was obliged to sell and move off in June  
last over the mountain But the Lord prospers  
him there. there Conduct brought heavy trials  
on my mind at first and many others and made  
a split in the Church But Blessed be God  
I hope they are brought to see their folly  
for they begin to make some Retraction for  
they find their union made throw pride and  
Covetousness will not answere for Ch<sup>h</sup>stians

the Lib. <sup>my</sup> term of life have been and felt or have been  
convinced that they were wrong in turning away  
from Smith and have wrote a confession to send  
to him agreeable to my mind

Stephen Shaw, For

Rev. J

Mar. 15. 1799

Rec. April 2. 1800.

J. B. Isaac Backus

in  
Middleborough  
in Massachusetts



Dear Sir since I have had no opportunity  
to send this letter since I wrote it I  
give you a short account of the glorious  
work that has been & is now a going on  
in Wethersfield & Cavendish towns adjacent  
to this where the inhabitants <sup>in general</sup> were the most  
careless and stupid of Envy in my knowledge  
till last Spring ~~they~~ Brother Ezra  
Kindel a young Brother in this Church was  
called to attend a funeral in Wethersfield  
near Cavendish where his labours was  
Blessed & they invited him to preach with  
them the next Lord Day & he did & his  
improvements <sup>inhabitant</sup> seemed to engage the minds  
of the <sup>inhabitant</sup> to set up publick worship in that  
dark place and Requested Brother Kindel  
to stay with them & preach likewise he  
did and his preaching was Concluded with  
a plentiful effusion of the Spirit and a  
Considerable number have come forward and gave  
a good Evidence of their faith in Christ I was  
there at a meeting not long since to hear  
Elder Aaron Seaton preach and he baptized  
seven one of the number my son Samuel and  
last week he preached there again and baptized  
thirteen and the work still is carried on in that  
place and in other places not far from here  
which is a strong Evidence that God has not  
Left this Land and people  
October the 8



893.  
Recd. April 2 1800.  
Oct. 8. 1799.  
Stephen Shaw.

April 3. 1800 I saw letter  
from brother Stephen Shaw  
wrote last January which  
confirmed that this was  
from him, but he did not  
set his name to this I know  
not.



Dear Sir, I send you these Lines, Charged with  
my Thanks, for the Favours I have Received from  
you by your Books: altho I have not had the Happiness  
Of a Personal acquaintance with you, I have also  
Inclosed, a very Brief account, Of the Beginning, Rise,  
And Progress, Of the Baptist in New Hampshire. —  
According to the Little Knowledge, and Acquaintance,  
I have had of it; I have been Obliged to write some  
thing, about myself, in Order to grant your Request  
when I saw you, which I should have Chose to have  
Been Done, by Another hand, if it could have been; —  
But as it could not, So as to Send it timely, I Trust you  
will Excuse me: and also the Incorrectness of what  
I have sent: If you judge any Of it worth Putting in  
to your History, Please to Insert the Sence, I have  
Hinted, and Correct the Form, or any words as you  
Shall See Proper. I might have added something of  
the Opposition and Calumny we have met with but  
Time would fail me to be Particular we know that this  
Sect is Every where Spoken Against Nevertheless we  
Know we must Stand or fall By the word of God and the  
Time is Drawing nigh when Persons & things now set at  
nought will be had in Honour by the Grate Judge Of the  
Quick and Dead So wishing you may be helped even to  
The End So to act in this world as may Tend to your  
Joy at the Grate Day Of accounts I Rest your friend  
And Brother in the Faith Of Jesus Christ. —

Stratham Sep<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1774

Sam<sup>e</sup> Shepard

To Elder Isaac Bacus in Middleborough

19  
Elder

Isaac Baccus

Pastor of

a  
Baptist Church  
of Christ

in

Middleborough

Dr. Shepard's  
Letter 1774

Recd Sept 13<sup>th</sup>  
J. B.



He Introduced washing of Feet, & the Holy Kiss,  
and finally grew so bold, as to Affirm, it was enough for  
a member, to do what he said was duty; whether the Per-  
son Saw it duty or not. Quoting Heb 12th v<sup>th</sup>, Obey them  
that have the Rule over you &c. He made great Disturbance,  
Among some Churches in the Wilderness, for about Two  
years. But the Summer past, the Church at London, cut him  
off with a number more, for Lording of it over the Church.  
In November last, One Doctor Copley a Shaking Elder, (so called)  
visited said Lock, & his friends, and said Lock & one John  
Shepard, a Ruleing Elder, with about Twenty Persons joined  
the Shakers; and Lock & Shepard, went to the Lady, &  
her Elders, and took Licence to receive the Confession of  
Sins, of all such, as joining their Society. I visited my Friends at  
Gillmantown, & London, about the Time of their Return, and  
said John Shepard, was at a meeting where I preached,  
From Math 24 ch 24 & 25 ver. From which Text, I endeavour'd  
To shew, who was the True Christ, according to the Prophecies,  
1<sup>st</sup> by his Doctrine. 2<sup>d</sup> by his miracles. 3<sup>d</sup> by the Nature, and  
Harmony of his Laws; and have demonstrated, that his last-  
will must stand, until Time should be no longer. I proceeded  
To Discriminate the False Christ, and false Prophets, and  
demonstrated that such great Signs, & wonders should be  
shewn by them, that if possibly, God Elect would be Deceived.  
But as that is not possible, I proved, that gods People had a way,  
to distinguish them, and shewed that If any Person, or  
Persons, should shew any Signs or wonders, short of Raising  
the Dead,

In Order to Overturn the Laws Of the new Testament,  
Or Subvert the Scriptural Order, of the True Gospel Church,  
they thereby Proved themselves, to be the False Christ Described,  
in the aforecited Text. And I Trust the Discourse was not --  
Spoken in vain; For the said John Shepard, held a conf-  
-rence with ~~me~~ the following Evening, until morning, and  
Confessed, that he could not hold with the Shakers; without  
giving up his Own judgment, and Reason, & the Scriptures  
of Truth and Accordingly he has left them, and bares a Pub-  
-lick Testimony Against them; and Since I hear, Several  
more have left them, that I hope the Delusion, will <sup>not</sup> Proceed  
much further, in that part of the Country.

In your Letter to me you say, "I desire you freely to give me  
your thoughts, upon the Subjects viz the Difference between,  
the Kingdom of Christ, & the Kingdoms of this world.

I should be glad to grant your Request Particularly, and  
Fully, But I conceive many of my Christian Friends, and Num-  
-bers in the Ministry; who are much my Superiors, are differently  
minded from me, concerning the Connections of the Aforesaid. --  
Kingdoms. and unless I can Offer, Such Scriptural Evidence, as to  
Gain their minds, I conclude they will judge me Erroneous.  
For I have Observed, that the Scriptural light of Believers  
Baptism, and many other Truths, when they were held up  
to me, and my mind was in the dark concerning them, I  
called it darkness, & Error; and I find my Superiors do so like-  
-wise. Therefore, I want to be more Particular, than a Letter  
will admit of; in demonstrating a matter of so great Importance;



which all Christians Confess, the Scriptures Abundantly Speak about, and live in hopes the Distinction will be known & Enjoyed, In some future Period of Time: but seem to be far from concluding, that the Kingdom or Church of Christ, can by any means Know, & Enjoy, such Peaceable things now; as the Prophets foretold, and Told of. Because Says the world, there is so many wicked People & fighting Nations, at this time, Christ Kingdom cannot Enjoy that Rest, from the Sword of War, Foretold by the Prophets, until the Nations of the world, all become True Christians, and then of consequence, the sword must be beat up into Utensils of Husbandry. Because there will be none to Offend, or Stir up the wrath of the worlds Powers, (Together with the Kingdom or Church of Christ, mixed among them) to give them occasion, to use the sword. But such Persons, doth not Truly Consider, (in my humble Opinion) That he which Speaks from Heavens hath Declared, that Wars will continue Among the Kingdoms, and Nations of this world, until the Devil is bound up for a Thousand years, and Shut up in the Bottomless Pit, that he should Deceive the Nations no more, under any Pretence, of their Right to war whatsoever &c. If I understand what I Read, The New Testament doth not afford one Promise, for the Church to Expect, Wars to cease in the world, until the first Resurrection. When the Souls of them, that were Beheaded for the witness of Jesus, shall live and Reign &c. Rev 20th. Blessed and holy is he, that hath part in the first Resurrection, for we have no account of any Second, but the Second Deaths which Takes in all the Tribes of Adam, who are not found written, in the Lambs book of Life. Therefore I conceive, the Peaceable days Spoken of by the Prophets, Micah, & Isaiah, to which you Refer, doth Particularly point, to the glory Peace & victory, of the

Gospel church, Over the Confederacy of this world:  
From the Time, that Christ Delivered his Sermon on the  
mountain, until the glorified Reign, or First Resurrection  
before cited, shall take place. I am fully Perswaded, that  
The Apostles did possess, that peace, from the Sword of War  
Spoken of by the Prophets, from the Time that King Jesus,  
Gave them the Holy ghost, and opened their understandings  
To know what he meant, when he Told Peter, to Sheath his Sword  
In the Scabbard, (altho Peter was on the Defensive side) until  
they Sealed, their Testimony, with their bloods. Because we are  
Informed, 1 Ep of Peter 2<sup>nd</sup> ch 23 & 24 ver He hath left us an Example  
that we should follow his Steps: who when he was Reviled, Reviled  
not again, when Persecuted, he Threatned not &c. And Refers to his  
Example, at his Crucifixion viz, who his own Self bore our Sins, in his  
own Body on the Tree. I cannot understand, by Christs Doctrine on  
the Mountain, Math 5<sup>th</sup> ch. by Pauls Precepts to the church at Rome  
Rom 12<sup>th</sup> ch from the 14<sup>th</sup> ver to the End. 1 Ep Cor 14<sup>th</sup> ch 12 & 13 ver, 1 Ep of  
Pet 3<sup>rd</sup> ch from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13 ver. Hebrew ver 30<sup>th</sup> ch 12 ver 14<sup>th</sup>. James  
1<sup>st</sup> ch 5<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> ver. with too many such like Precepts, for me to men-  
tion, but that Christ, and his Apostles, did mean what they Enjoined  
by the afore cited Texts, should be Obeyed, and carefully Practiced:  
by the Subjects of his Kingdom and which way it is possible to  
Reconcile said Precepts, with Killing, Avenging our selves, warring,  
and Rendering like Evils to our Enemies, as they do to us, I can not  
Conceive: any more then I could conceive, that Fire, under cer-  
tain Circumstances, might be Water, and Darknes might be  
Light, or good might be Evil, and hatred be love. I beleive  
any Person, who Possesses that love, which is the End of the Command-  
ment, may Enjoy that Release from War, that the Prophets Spake of.  
Even while the Second Seal is Open, that John Speakes of Rev 6<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>  
and the Red Horse, with his Broad Sword is Posting Through the nations



To Take away their peace, & Set them to Killing one Another.  
as it appears to be the case, in this our day. If you will follow  
me Dear Brother, to Take a Scriptural Key, to Open all the afore-  
cited Texts in few words: you may find it in John 18th ch 36 vers. —  
If my Kingdom were of this world, then would my Servants Fight for  
I do not understand by Micah, compared with Isaiah, 2<sup>d</sup> ch that the  
many People, & nations, that shall beat up their Swords, and learn  
war no more; Means any more, then all those who Delight, to be  
Taught in the ways of the Lord, among all nations, & Peoples and  
Therefore shall say, Come let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord &  
they, and they Only, that Delight in Gods Law, in the Inward man  
and are in Possession of the Law of Love: Beat up their Swords, and  
Such Ought to do it now, (as much as <sup>any future</sup> generation of Gods People)  
whether the world, join them or not. Upon the whole I believe, it is  
our Duty as Christians, to be Peaceable and Inoffensive in our  
Generations. Owing no man any thing but Love, and as here  
we have no Continuing City, but are journeying to the Jerusalem  
above: We ought not to entangle ourselves, with the wars and  
Fightings, of the People through whom we pass; or among  
whom we may Tarry for a Night: but let us honestly pay our  
Tributes, I mean Render to Caesar, the things that be Caesars, viz  
(Gold & Silver, Iron & clay, which belongs to his Kingdom) and let  
our Souls and Bodies be Rendered, a Sacrifice to God. Let us  
hold up and Incubate, the Laws of King Jesus, whose laws  
are Divers, in many things, from the Laws of all nations;  
and Leave the Powers of this world, to make such Laws, as they  
In their wisdom, shall see fit. Then our Practice, will be conform'd  
to that mould of Doctrine, enjoined upon the Subjects of Christ  
Kingdom, of 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 7th ch 29th 30th & 31<sup>st</sup> vers. But this I say Brethren,  
the Time is short, it Remains for the Fashion of this world  
Pass away.

The Kingdoms Of this world, have their Treasure here, and their Heart is after it, and they chuse to have their Claims Run to them, and their Heirs for ever. Therefore they will Risk their Lives and Fortunes, to gain their points for their Heirs. I do like The Goddesses, Honour and Mastery &c. to leave their names upon their lands: but in Christ Kingdom it is not so, Neither can be, Because it is not of this world. I do not find one Text in the Bible, but what upon a fair Comparison of Scriptures agrees with what I have in these few Broken hints, Endeavour'd to Communicate to you, concerning Christs Kingdom, not being of this world.

The Substance of all the Objections, I have heard made against, what I have in the Lines before written, Communicated to you, is Sum'd up From the Consequences, Drawn from Rom 13th chap 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Let Every Soul be Subject, to the Higher Powers, for — There is no Power but of God &c. Pet 2<sup>nd</sup> ch 13 and 14 ver. Submit yourselves to Every Ordinance of man, for the Lords Sake &c From which Texts, the Objectors Argue, that Christianity doth not Release Christians, from being Members of Humane Society, or the Community in Common with other men: and Ought to Obey the Commands of Authority. Of Consequence say they, if the Authority Commands, to Take up the Sword of war, the Christians are by the afore cited Texts, Obliged to Obey: and Therefore may not beat up their Swords, until the Kingdoms Of the world, beat up their swords Like wise. To which I Reply, no Power is without Limits, except the Power of God alone, He only is Supreme. Therefore if we could Suppose, the Supreme Lawgiver, to Reveal his Moral Character, by a Code of Statute Laws to his Kingdom in which he expressly Commanded, Supreme love to himself, an Equal love to our Neighbour as our selves, and a love of



Kindness, Pity & good will to our Enemies, and had  
expressly forbid his Subjects, to Kill in a way of war & fighting  
Declaring that all such Strife, Proceeds from the Luste  
that War against the Soul. all which Particulars, the  
Scriptures doth Declare to be the Laws of the Supreme Law-  
giver. If we could suppose I say, after all this, that God  
should Ordain Earthly Powers, to make laws and give out  
Commands, to the People of God, Contrary to his own laws.  
And at the same time, Command his People to Obey him,  
And likewise to Obey them, it would be so Repugnant  
To the Reason and Common Sense that God hath Implanted  
In us, that we must sooner Turn Deists, then Admit such  
a Contradiction, to Proceed from the most High.

Therefore it is Evident, that the Earthly Powers are limited,  
and have no Right to Command any Christian, to do that  
which God hath forbidden him to do. Neither doth the  
Apostles, in the Aforecited Texts, Convey such a Sense as  
the Objection Supposeth which is Evident, from the close  
of Chapter 12th and from the 7th and following verses, of  
the same ch 13th Render to all their Dues & ver 14th Owne  
man any thing but to love & ver 9th For this thou shalt not  
Commit Adultery, Thou shalt not Kill &c from which it is  
Evident, the Apostle meant Only, to Enjoin Upon the Subjects  
of Christs Kingdom, that Civil Obedience to Majestates, of  
Paying their Tribute, and living in Peace, by an Inoffensive  
Life, and Conversation, and Conduct, Among all men: and it is  
Plain by Reading, the Aforecited 2<sup>d</sup> ch of Pet, that he was Enjoining

The Same Inoffensive Practice, Among the Saints with  
his Brother Paul. I would further Observe, ~~That~~  
~~If the~~ Kingdoms of the world, Keep their Boundaries,  
No Difficulty can well arise, But if they Command —  
The Subjects of Christs Kingdom, to do Such things, as Christ  
forbids. If they Cannot convince the Powers, the things are  
unlawfully, they must Suffer the Penalty Annear, which  
is not unlawful for them to Suffer, but is Agreeable to the  
Laws of the King of Kings: Recorded in the New Testament.  
I am Sencible many Christians, being Deceived (in my Judgment)  
By that same Spirit, that Deceived the Disciples, when they would  
have called for fire to Destroy their Opposers: not Considering,  
What manner of Spirit it is: will make many Objections, as  
well as the men of the world, Against the Distinctions I have made  
And I expect it ever will be so, more or less, until the Deceiver  
of Souls be shut up in the Bottomless Pit, that he may Deceive no  
more. Notwithstanding, I would Advise all, who feel Objections  
arise in their minds, to Consider well, that a Thousand Objections,  
Arising from Consequences we Draw, with out it is expressed in  
The Scriptures, will not Negative Moral Precepts, nor overturn  
any Statute Law of Christs Kingdom: which is not of this world.  
Thus Sir, I have Scratch'd Down some of my Thoughts, to send  
you, in Compliance to your Request. If you find I have  
made, any unscriptural Contradiction, or have Perverted the  
True Sense of the Law of Love, or have Infringed upon  
the Boundaries of the Worlds Kingdom, Please to Inform  
me where in, and I shall Take it as a Pledge of Friendship,  
and hope I shall Receive Instruction by it.



Lastly, as I am About to Close up what I have to Write, and  
it being the first Time, I have Opened my mind on the  
Subject to any with Pen and Ink, in this way, and may  
be the Last, you may Ever See from me in this way.  
Therefore I would welcome your Gray Hairs, to the  
Peacefull Grave, when like a Shock of Corn fully Ripe,  
God hath Numbered your months, and wish your Soul a  
Safe and joyfull Entrance, into the Port of everlasting Glory,  
where this Law of Love, I have been writing about, will be  
Enjoyed in a manner, we have small Conceptions of, while  
this vail of flesh stands between. In the mean Time,  
Suffer me to Intreat you, as a Father, to take Comfort in the  
Consideration, Of the Happiness and Safety, the True Subjects  
of Christ Kingdom are in, Even in this world, above what  
the world can enjoy.

It Followeth from what I have been Observing, that a  
Subject of Christ Peace Kingdom, (that understands himself)  
Hath gained very much, by Beating up his Sword, into a  
utensil for Husbandry. For God is Defence, Salvation is -  
his Walls, Christ is his Strong Hold, God is his Refuge, Angels  
are his Guards, Faith is his Shield, Righteousness is his Breast-  
plate, and the word of God his Sword. The Gospel of Peace is  
his Shoe, to Travel Through his journey, and he is sure that all  
Things, shall Turn Out for his good, while the world is at  
their wits End, Beating up for Arms, He stands still to behold,  
the Salvation of God.

He Knows that his helper is at hand, and is always nearest to him, than any thing else can be, to Terrifye him; in the midst of Every Danger, his Eye of Faith Attends to God, his Defender, his Glorie and the lifting up of his Head: Even in the hour of Death, he Considers his Disposition, to be the Breaking Down of that Partition, which Stands between his Soul and the Sight of him, who is about to manifest himself, in the Fullness of Joy. So wishing you Dear Sir, and all that Love our Lord Jesus Christ, a Safe Arrival at Last, into the Peacefull Regions of Everlasting Rest I Remain your Sincere Friend, & Brother in the Faith

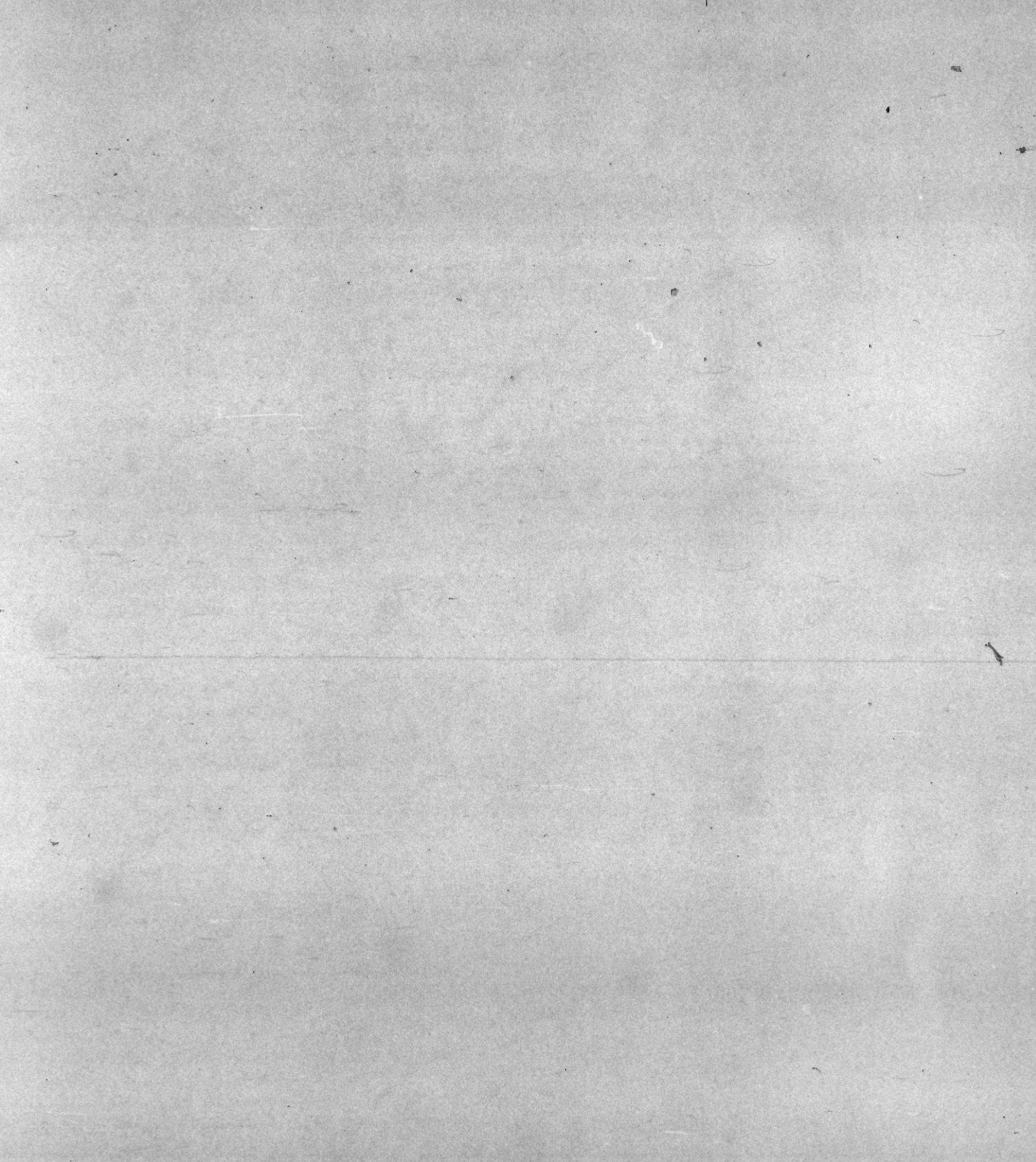
Sam<sup>r</sup> Shepard

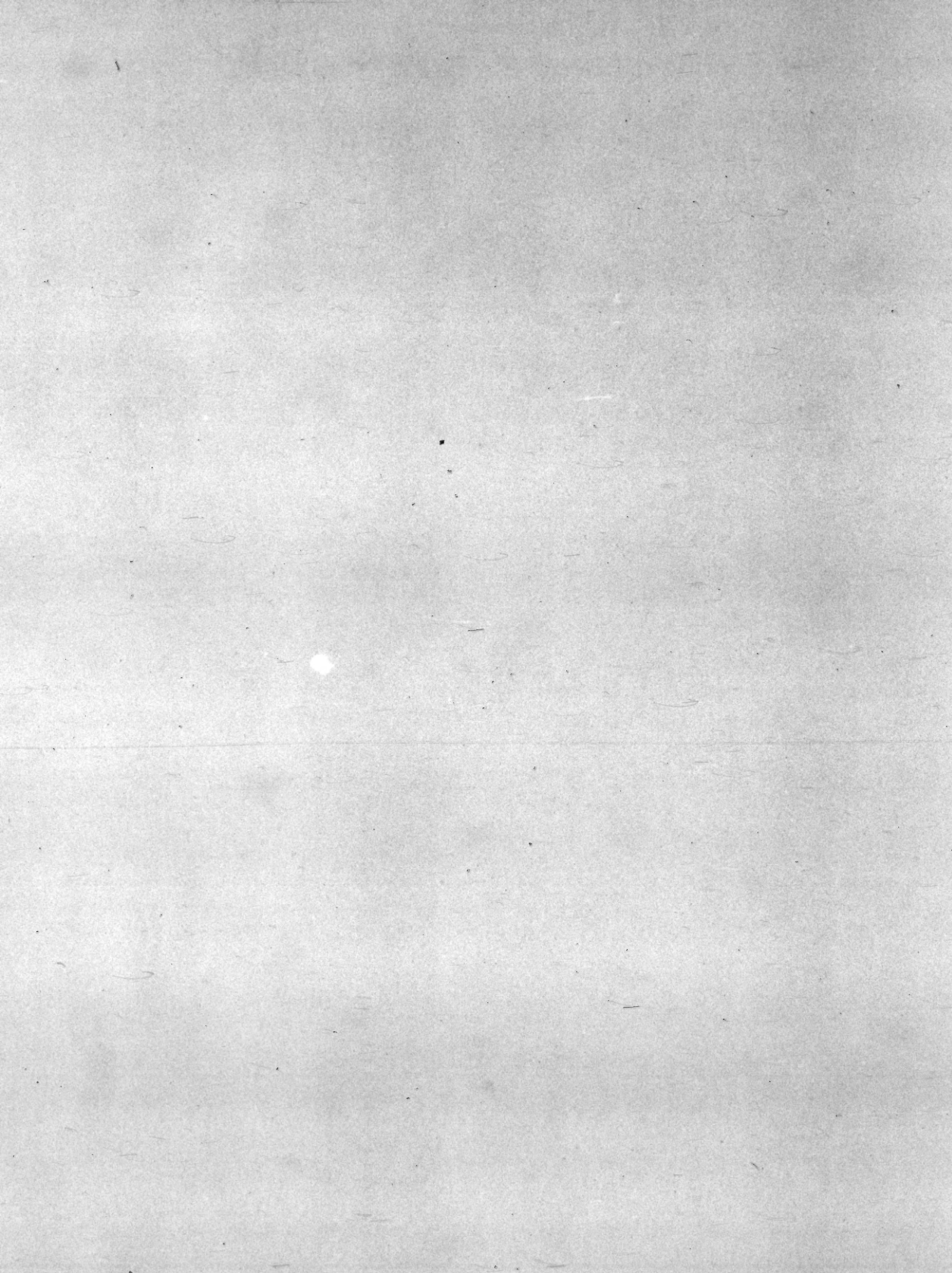
P<sup>s</sup>. S The above hints are the present Opinion of the Chief Number of our Brethren and if you Think fit Among other things in your History To Inform the unborn Generations of our Opinion in this matter you may Do what you Think proper having Corrected my blunders and Slips as you Judge Necessary.

Received  
May 28 1783.

J. Brackins









Dear Sir

Shutesbury Feb. 27. 1798

Although I have had but a small acquaintance with your  
Self. Personally, yet being called to the same work, in different  
Parts of god's harvest, I thought it might not be improper, to write  
a few lines to you, as I now have an opportunity, Dear Crocker  
being a Count to visit you; kind Sir, I am fully Persuaded that  
those that love Zion are glad to hear of her welfare, and to be  
acquainted with her state. Especially those who are Pillars in  
Zion and have borne some of the heat of the Day — and Perhaps  
Sir you would not be sorry to hear of the welfare of this branch of  
Zion in Shutesbury, Sir, as to the Exercises of the mind of of Professors  
in this place, are rather low, yet steadfast, I trust, in the truth  
and at the Present we enjoy a great measure of Peace & Union  
amongst us — although it is not so lively a time with us as  
it was in some time past when there was a revival & Reformation  
with us, But I can say through god's grace, and a bountiful goodness  
Those who have made a Profession, remain steadfast in the  
Truth; as I do believe: — There are some Doctrines lately held  
up to view, extremely derogatory to the Redeemer's dignity  
and his meritorious Sacrifice, That great, That meritorious,  
That all sufficient Sacrifice — by some it is asserted the sufferings  
of Christ were no more than creature sufferings, or what a mean man might  
have borne, & say it was not infinite &c. — and deny the Satisfaction  
it made &c. — Some call it new divinity — and I have said  
newly Exhibited, or brought to view, But I have only used their language  
They call it new Divinity — and further, or new, light, But it appears  
to me to be some of the old Darkness — and not worthy the name  
Divinity — I cannot see it to be according to the Divine Nature, or god  
to be the proper object of this Science. But rather Denied in  
many respects &c. — it looks, to me, much like the Socinian-  
ism — and Pregnant with Arianism — But Sir I cannot  
inform you in these things — you know more about them than  
I can tell you — Sir I have seen your Answer to Mr. Pomeroy  
on the a tone ment — So I must conclude, with these few words  
Sir I greatly Rejoice, that god, who holds the seven Stars in his  
right hand, keeps some as pillars in his Church, to defend  
his truth, and ornament his house, and although some who  
have been mighty, are fallen a sleep, yet through god's grace  
some survive, and when they shall die, others shall live, for god  
has said he will not leave him self without a witness — So  
in the faith of this I comfort my self, and if I forget Zion, let  
my right hand forget its cunning, if I forget Jerusalem to my chief  
Joy — So I remain your Brother and fellow Labourer in the  
Kingdom of our Lord  
Joseph Smallidge

P.S. Please to inform Dr. Crocker <sup>Shutesbury</sup> whether in Boston, or where in this country or not, or if you can  
Direct Dr. Crocker where <sup>Shutesbury</sup> our <sup>Shutesbury</sup> Orders — & what cheap

The Rev.  
W. C. Backus

Middleborough

Handed by Joseph L. Meigs.  
Dec. 27. 1892.  
Recd. Mass.  
J. 25.









Dear & beloved brother  
thou unknown to me by face yet I have some acquaintance with you by seeing  
of your Books which you sent me for which I desire to Return my thanks  
that you and all else for that he has Raised up such a witness for his truth  
in our Land Hoping that you may Repose full into the death and Receive a  
Crown of life I was in Hopes to have seen you at Worcester this instant Sept  
but sickness in my family has prevented my coming and I being bound to the  
world and having a considerable family and being obliged to do my part to the  
support of the Leading Worship (as it is called) in this Place: I have  
nothing to send to you but my thanks and good wishes Desiring your  
prayers I trust you know the heart of a minister and what it is to feel  
the weight of having the care of souls A Brother I feel some times as  
if I never could speak any more in the name of Christ at other times  
as if I could speak day and night and never cease some times when  
I come to meeting most empty and I try to love the house  
I find the greatest enlargement some times when I think my  
self strong I find myself the most Grovelling that true are  
the words of Jesus without me you can do nothing but Jesus  
also is his promise to join with you: O that I could along  
take hold of it as faith what you write of your experience in  
your Book Collected fish caught in his own net Page 100: 101  
And you written out of my own heart I would not have  
on my Experience more exact and the single point that I was Bro't  
too near: Let God be true and Every man a Liar by them words  
Devot to the Word truth as I could find if your Record and as  
you said to let God men and women shall be out of the Question then  
Did the truth Shine Shine so clear I could not but wonder I  
did not see it before the Reason I know was because I let many traditions  
bear some weight in Ballance with the word of God: O Brother I Devot  
not in the least but that Infant Baptism will fall to the ground: and the  
Church be brought to see Eye to Eye in Gods own time & that the day might  
come: I see your Prayers for me that God would Grant me wisdom  
and strength to be faithful as a watch man and keep me always in the dust  
that I might always see my own nothingness and be filled with Christs fullness  
that How ever Great my old wad Stroits are yet my soul might  
be filled with the Love of Christ: Even Love to him and his truth and love  
never Dying souls O that the Love of Christ might take the lead  
of my mind and the Love of Christ constrain me to Persuade men  
it is a time of Love and fellowship in this little vine here in the wilderness  
we are in number thirty two Church members and about one Hundred  
Persons that attend the worship I long to see sinners wounded to  
the heart and healed by the balm of Gilead if it could fall in your way  
to come and see me I should be Exceeding Glad for I live in a by Corner  
and it is Rare that I can see an Elder but whether I see you or not  
I hope you will not forget to write to me when you can so wishing  
Grace mercy and peace may be with you and the whole Zion of God blessing your  
Prayers for me I subscribe myself the unworthy your Brother in the  
Gated Ashfield Sept 22<sup>d</sup> Gospel Bonds Ebenezer Smith



Mr  
Alfred Backer Esq.  
of the Baptist Church  
at  
Middleborough with  
Care

From A. H. Field  
Sept. 2. 19 69  
Recd Dec. 23.  
I. 13.

Chas. Smith  
Letter. Sep. 2. 1969.



Shute Town April 4<sup>th</sup> 1765 Dear Sir I send these  
few lines ~~and~~ wishing Good mercy & peace may be Multiplied  
unto you I have often Heard of you tho I never see your face  
in the flesh and I learn something of your Knowledge in divine  
truth by the Little book that you sent to me this winter past  
for which I desire to be thankful to God of the author of all  
mercy and to you as an instrument Dear Sir I long to  
see you that we might converse together without paper and ink  
I beg your prayers for one that is the least of all saints &  
unworthy to be of their happy number that I might have  
Grace to be found faithful in this day of trial and wisdom to  
to Lead and feed the flock of God which he hath Bought  
with his one Blood my spiritual trials & outward afflictions  
are great but thro the Pure mercy of God I feel un-  
shaken in the truth waiting for the salvation of God  
Pray for the Church in this place against which Earth &  
Hell seem to be Engaged that God would defend it and  
Shower down some mercy Troops upon it Dear Sir if you  
could send me a few Lines I should be very glad I beg  
leave to subscribe myself your Loving ~~little~~ unworthy  
Brother in our Dear Lord Amen Ebenezer Smith

Dear Smith  
Letter Apr. 6. 1465

To  
Mr. Isaac Backus  
att  
With thorough prayer  
Deliver with care  
and speed.

From Huntington  
Apr. 6. 1465  
Rec. May 21.  
S. 13.



Shutesbury May 23. 1798

Dear Sir With my hearty regards to you I humbly  
trust to inform you of Gods wonderful work with us it  
hath bin a very glorious work indeed it hath bin more than  
a year since it hath bin begun and yet continues with us  
it began more in the middle of the Town this last winter to the  
North West Now more to the South West & that began lately  
last Lord Day a Number appeared <sup>of</sup> much affected & under  
concern of soul the work in the Town of Shutesbury appears  
to be a Number very thoughtful & under concern in this Town  
which is an adjacent Town North of us God works very  
special there two have bin baptized that belong to this town  
and joined to our church and at a lecture yesterday there more  
promised to be baptized belonging to this Town and others appeared  
to be very thoughtful it appears God really <sup>has</sup> begun a glorious  
work there a New Baptist Society is formed and appears there  
will be a Baptist church in this Town of Windham before long  
they at present join to the Baptist church in Shutesbury  
there hath bin a great many baptized since I wrote to you  
Sir there hath bin some there were six baptized not long  
since and more are expected soon to be things look  
promising at present the Lord works & none can hinder it  
our church in peace <sup>in peace</sup> back <sup>in peace</sup> have returned the minds  
of our People are religious & devoted at the present  
Sir I should be glad if <sup>you</sup> <sup>could</sup> <sup>bring</sup> <sup>brothers</sup> into your part  
of the work if could but Providence both not per mit  
Sir I should be glad if you could come to this town  
& see us if you could I have no other special dears  
to write at present in Cold Spring I understand  
there hath bin a <sup>supra</sup> <sup>reformation</sup> there in hardwick  
there hath bin a small moving on some minds  
a new Baptist Society is formed in the South West Part  
of the Town they are a bout to ordain a younger man to  
Preach with them in <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>next</sup> <sup>things</sup> look promising  
Edw<sup>d</sup> May<sup>r</sup> Montague is <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>head</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>school</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>Shutesbury</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>likely</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>ordained</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>pastor</sup> <sup>over</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>church</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>place</sup>

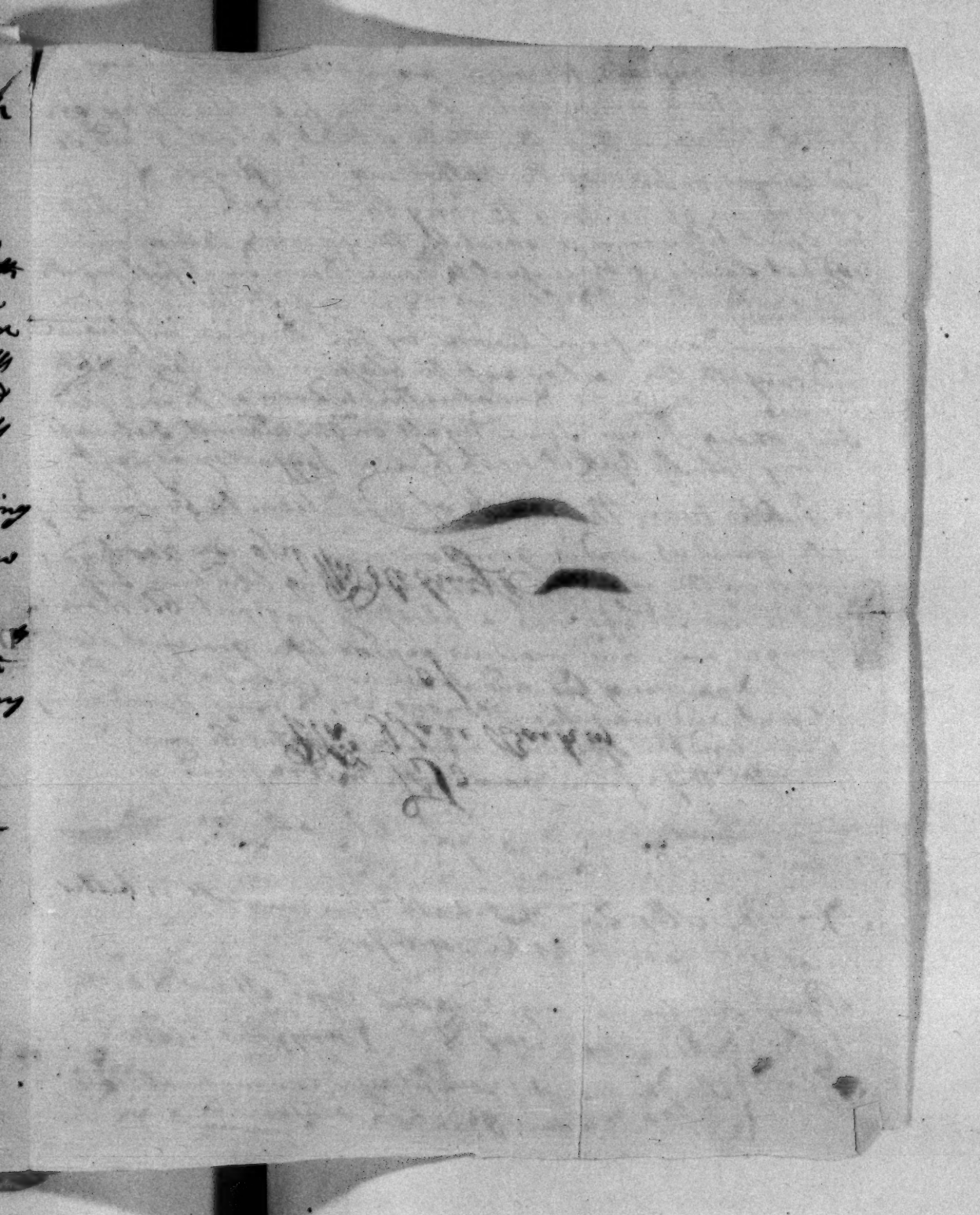
Place and appears to be a promising young man  
his ordination is appointed to be the first Wednesday the  
June this seems to be the state of things a bout us and so  
God carries on his work gathering his People & <sup>is</sup>  
raising up of his sons to carry on his work - he send  
his spirit like rain moderately the former & latter rain  
God had said he will cause it to come Down in its full month  
God early send his blessings & he causeth them to come  
they come Down from heaven by the Divine influence  
and causeth the seed to blossom like drops & fills  
the pools with water & makes the children of Zion glad  
Sir although I have some tryalls on the account sickness  
in my family yet it hath ben a Joyfull year past  
a Jubile year the work of God seem to be spreading  
all round us and is going on now So we do know  
God is in the midst of Israel working like him self  
and he has set before us a pleasing prospect Old men  
young men and maidens appear like graceful plants  
in the garden of God and so we are favored of God at the  
Present and may his glorious work may spread every  
where and the spreading empire of Jesus become  
universal thus from your most sincere friend

~~Joseph Smith~~ Joseph Smith

N.B. My son that hath ben unwell is better  
not yet so well as he was before

Pray Sir Give my regard Capt. Shaw & his  
friends & Dr. Hatt was & Every <sup>one</sup> that love  
Zion { Sir you may if you please commend this  
letter to your People & others





Joseph Smallidge,  
May 23. 1798.  
Recd. June 26.  
J. W.

Wm. D. & Co. & Co.

To  
The Glass Bank  
of



Rev. Sir I take this opportunity  
to write to you hoping these lines  
will find you well as they leave me at  
Poultney Sir I received your letter  
by the hand of Mr. Gun in which you  
informed of the revival of Religion  
with you and I for whom which was  
as cold water to a thirsty soul I rejoice  
that God is carrying on his work in  
many places in the world - Sir as  
to the state of Religion with us we  
nothing very special to write but  
there remains union and good agree-  
ment at Poultney as can be expected  
and our People appear to be devoted  
and they have held their conference  
meetings ever since the reformation

The church that we sit of at  
Windal have additions to them  
till this time when they were set  
of from us they were Near thirty  
and Now about fifty Sir Mrs  
Smallidge is Dead and I am left  
in peculiar trying circumstances  
Rev. Sir I ask your Prayers for  
me that God wold support me &  
make me faithful unto Death  
So I remain your sincere friend  
Shutbury Oct. 20 1800  
Joseph Smallidge

Answered Feb. 14. 1801.

L. B. Sir I should  
be glad to see you  
with us if you could  
make it convenient

Joseph Smalley

Oct. 20. 1800.

Rec. Oct. 24-

L. B.



Sir after my hearty & sincere regards to you & yours -  
I take this opportunity to inform you Sir that I am well  
at Present & my family much as they have been of late (I have  
had sickness in my family an only son God hath been pleased to lay  
his hand heavy upon him although he much better than he hath  
been yet his dearer Siftom hath been so affected he is not all together  
as he ~~was~~ once was & falls much on my chest & but God hath mingled  
my cup I was almost ready to say my Days were cut off & I  
should see no more good but while my grief swelled like a flood &  
Deep seem'd to call to Deep of worldly sorrow God was pleased to work  
like him self) This Spring God has been pleased to pour out his  
Spirit upon us in a marvelous manner it seems to be like the  
prophetic Song of ~~Isaiah~~ when he says that his Doctrine my  
Doctrine shall drop as the rain & Distill as Dew & Small rain  
on the tender herb & as the Showers upon the grass the work with  
us seems to be like the rain or Dew or Small rain on the tender  
herb it not only falls on the tender herb it hath fall on the Sturdy  
oaks & lofty cedars they break and bow not withstanding the Spirit  
of God Descends like the gentle Dew and are by the heavenly arm  
subdu'd Some of the Greatest of the enemies of Religion have been  
wrought upon have openly acknowledged Christ have been baptized  
& joined the church of Number now baptized are 27 & 28 I find us  
the work seems to be on the increase at the present some yet  
under concern & some propose to be baptized it appears God is  
giving to him self the victory his omnipotent arm is strong  
ground his people stoop under him they cannot resist his Small voice  
nor stand ~~against~~ <sup>against</sup> the power of his mighty Power &  
grace Sir I read a Scotch in your Dear brother of pains being taken to  
propagating the Gospel among the heathen and other parts of the world  
where it hath not been before this news gives me great Joy for I believe  
not only in Africa & East Indies & South Sea but in the whole world  
Salvation be preached & to mystical Babylon God will say come down &  
sit in the dust there is no throne & the Kingdom of Christ be enlarged  
and established in this world then shall the inhabitant the Rock shall  
Sing & forth of Arabia shall blossom as a rose Multitudes flow  
& flock to gether the blind shall be led by way they knew not & paths  
they not know Dark ness made light before them & crooked things  
straight these things will God do to them & through Divine grace  
he will never forsake them And may the God of all grace  
bless you my Father that you may say Yours left Dear one  
Yours left Dear one from your sincere friend

Shutesbury August 9. 1797 Joseph Smalley  
N.B. Deacon Crocker Pre member <sup>his</sup> regards to you Sir  
& Yours

Sir you will Pardon the brokenness of this letter both manner & of its  
being interlined as the opportunity I had to write it was at a conference  
meeting having no other opportunity when I could send a letter to you  
that I knew of



Answered May 15. 1798.

Answered Sept. 1. 1797.

Joseph Smallidge

Aug. 9. 1797.

Rec. Aug. 17.

J. B.









Dear Sir

Wishing Grace many & truth to be with you -  
I take this opportunity to write to you, and  
communicate some of my thoughts to you. it is  
a day where in (I believe) God is a Returning the  
Captivity of Zion: and a discovering to his Chh,  
the things that are contrary to his mind and  
will: and I think it agreeable to the Gospel  
to hold up what we think to be true. that others  
may judge, and try it by the standard of eternal  
truth - therefore I take the liberty to offer  
to your Consideration: one thing that I verily  
believe ought to be Razed out of the Church of Christ -  
and that is making slaves of the  
poor Negroes - We complain of Bondage, and  
shall we at the same time keep our fellow men in  
bondage: tho I know of but few in our Churches  
that have Negroe Slaves, yet the thing is allowed  
and not witnessed against as I think it ought to be  
for altho under the Law, the Jews were allowed to  
make Slaves of the Gentiles, yet not of their brethren  
and Jesus come to take away the work of Partition  
and to set all mankind upon a level, for God hath  
made of one Blood all nations, for to dwell on all the  
Earth: that I think all men in the sight of God are  
brethren, by Blood and birth as Really as the Jews were  
one with another: as we all sprang from the first  
Adam; under the Law he that stole a man, was to be  
put to death: and the apostle saith, the Law is made  
for men stealers - and I have been often told (and I  
believe truly) that this is the way, that they often take  
to get Slaves from Africa - even to steal them  
and bring them here and sell them: and tho the buy  
er



Cruel may try to excuse him self, yet he that is <sup>a</sup> Com-  
panion of thieves is an ~~affair~~ <sup>abomination</sup> in the sight  
of God. And there is a woe, to him that useth his  
Neighbours service with out Wages, and giveth him not  
~~not~~ for his work - is not this the very case with  
them that keep the Negroes in bondage they must  
spend all ~~their~~ <sup>their</sup> Life in thier Masters service and  
and thier Children after them, and have no wages  
for it: is this not keeping back the Hire of Labourers  
by fraud; the cry of which will enter in to the Ears  
of the Lord of Sabaoth, the Divine Direction is all  
things what soever ye woud, that men should do to you  
doe even so to them, for this is the Law and the  
Prophets - which of us woud love to be treated or  
have our Children treated, as we treat them and thier  
Children, to be sold as Cattle in a market, and that  
during Life, it is some of the more hard <sup>side</sup> of  
Babylon that is to be destroyed - that it appears  
to me it is High time for the watchmen to sound on  
alarm against this practice, and for Churches to  
purge themselves from these. I am well sensible  
it will come across the profits of them that have  
floues, and are Enriching them selves with thier  
Labour, but they that <sup>shall</sup> behold the King in his  
Beauty. Despise the gain of oppression: and if  
we will be Christs Disciples self must be denyed  
these things appear weighty to me, and I desire  
you to turn to the following scriptures and com-  
pare them to gether (viz) Acts: 17:26 Exodus: 21:16  
Lev: 24:17 - 1 Timothy: 1:10 Isaiah 1:23 Jeremiah 22:13  
James: 5:4 Matt 7:12 Revel 18:13: 2 Timothy 2:21  
Isaiah 33:15:17 I trust that you will not  
take it amiss that I have used this freedom to  
write



Write to you. but <sup>will</sup> hope you take the matter into  
Serious Consideration before god: and if you can Have  
Opportunity, send me your thoughts about it: if I  
have made any mistake, I desire it may be Rectified  
but if the thing be true, as it appears to me at present  
there, it ought to be Received - I Leave it with you,  
to Communicate what I have write, to as many as  
you think proper. And so praying that you may  
Ever be found a burning and shining Light, in the  
Church of God. begging your prayers for me, I

beg Leave to subscribe myself your poor un-  
worthy brother, and fellow Labourer in the Gospel

Of Jesus Christ Ebenezer Smith

From the House of my pilgrimage  
in Ashfield the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the 10 month

1773.

P.S. Give my kind Love to Mr. Stittman &  
Dea Freeman <sup>when you gather</sup> and all the brethren  
that are ~~with~~ with you

I Read the above Lines to the Church  
and they gave their fellowship to Have  
them sent to you

To  
the Rev Isaac  
Backus Sec of the  
first Baptist Church in  
Middleborough with  
Care

Boz. Smith, Care  
about 1890s  
Oct. 16. 1913.

Rec. Nov. 6  
J. W.



To Messrs Stillman & Talcott Decr 30. 1771

Sirs I take this opportunity to write to you, to acquaint you with some of my trials: and for report under them - as I was coming from Newport: I met a man in Mendon who told me: that some of my brethren were bound over to Court as money makers: and that there was a warrant out for me: it was very heavy news at first: aggravated by my being so far from home among strangers: and by thinking what trouble my brethren were under and I not with them: to encourage and comfort them: but what was most of all: to think the cause of God should be wounded: O I thought I did not care what I was called to suffer if God might get glory: for I knew myself to be innocent: and I did believe my brethren were: I told the men I should not go out of my way in going home for their warrant: unless they took me by force I parted with him with a heavy heart: as you may well think: as I was a going to preach the next day in that town: but I did not give many steps from him before their words dropt in upon my mind: that calmed the tumult of my thought (viz) be carefull for nothing: but in every thing. by pray and supplication with thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving: Let your Request be made known to  
God Phil & Chap Ours if come Home: and have  
met with no interruption as yet: but Remain  
in peace with my family & people = but as it  
was said of Jeremiah that those that come from  
among the Enemies: said to him ten times  
they would be upon him: so they have said  
to me twice ten times they will be upon me  
but who being as I am would flee? what  
they may be supposed to do I know not: but  
so long as I live: the testimony of a good  
Conscience I can not avoid of the Reproach  
of men: neither of their Revilings - I beg an inte-  
rest in your prayers that I may not be  
Left to Dis honour God: by any means: and  
may find his Grace sufficient for me - it is  
a Comfortable time in the Church: we have  
Had one died: since my father was at Boston  
All the Rage of men cannot hinder the  
work of God — whose Power is sufficient  
to fulfill all his promises — in whom I do  
renew faith: Let my outward trials be ever



even so great - that I am not discouraged -  
I wish the best of Blessings upon you: Help me  
to praise God: for Enclining the Heart of our  
Gracious King: to Grant us Reliefe in our former  
Difficultys I view it as the Hand of God: and I  
fear he may show the Glory: I have yet  
I beg leave to subscribe myself your  
unworthy Brother in the  
Gospel. Yours &c E. W. Smith

As Mr Joris I have sent you the History  
of the Church - and the names of the men  
that are suspected of money making on  
the attested accounts one of the witnesses  
was at Spring field for they could not  
be all on one paper as you will see  
if you want any thing more send me  
word if you can and I will send  
it if I can

To  
the Rev  
John Davis  
at  
Boston

---

Wm Smith  
Letter of A. H. C.  
Dec 1791.



11  
Aylesfield June 13: 1771

Dear Brother

I take this opportunity to write to you - Wishing you all  
Peace: I would inform you that it is a time of Peace  
in the Church Here: we Had one added to us last winter  
there is nothing Remarkable in Religion at present: tho I  
think the work is on the gaining Hand: I am not Discour-  
aged under all my troubles: I went to the General Court  
last April: and the Lower House would Have granted us  
Relief: but the Council Refused: the case that we Had in  
the Executive Court: turned in our favour: for the sale  
of our Lands could not be proved to be legal: but the oppo-  
site party seem to get themselves, to take away our God name  
by all manner of slanders: and false Reports: which if you have seen  
a piece put in Drovers paper last winter: and my answer to it  
you may be in some measure fenceable off: but much more -  
was said by them in an answer they sent to the Baptist pe-  
tition to the Court: where in they set us out to be the vile-  
est of men: and yet said nothing against our moral Con-  
duct: but only about our Religion: there is a large sum now  
voted for their minister: and I understand they have sent a  
man down to the Court: to try to get power to collect it  
and to get their Past Vendors Confirmed by the General  
Court: for they cannot show in a trial at Law: what  
the court will do I know not: or how long we must be  
called to suffer: I beg your prayers for me  
and my family and people: that the work of God might  
flourish in this place: and that in Gods own time we might  
find Relief from our cruel foes - May the God of all  
Grace be with you and make you faithful and successful  
Give my Love to all enquiring friends: and pray send  
me a line if you can I add no more but Remain  
yours in the best of Bonds Ebenezer Smith

P.S. I was very sorry when you came so near  
to me as South Hady last fall that you did not  
come and see but I Hope you will come when  
you shall have a convenient time







Dear Brother

Sheffield May 19<sup>th</sup> 1772

your Letter of may 7 I Received the 15 and Communicated  
it to my brethren we accepted of your advice: but how  
we shall be set at Liberty we know not: our adversaries  
are very busy & seem to think to get the vendue confirm  
ed; and ~~the~~ Power to collect another tax of us: you tell us  
to persevere I Hope we shall: and trust you will Remember  
us being in bonds: as bound with us it was Col Bowers that  
told me to petition the Court: the Committee said nothing  
against it when I was in Boston: if you had not writ I  
should Have sent a petition to Him: but I Desire not  
to Displease my brethren: or Hurt the Cause: I this  
Day Received a Letter you sent to Richard mountague  
we met this Evening and writ the Evidence you  
sent from our witnesses one to go to Ipswich to  
morrow morning to make oath to it I trust you will  
Receive it with this Letter  
Pray send me a Letter if you can to let me know how  
affairs go on: for I shall want to hear from  
you as often as I can: for if we cannot obtain Help  
some way we are an undone people as to things of this  
world as far as I can see

I am your Brother in the Best of

Bonds

Eleanor Smith

Edw. Smith, Collector,  
Dor. May 19. 1791.  
A. R. Smith

Edw. Smith  
Collector May 19. 1791

To  
Mr John Davis Minister of  
the Second Baptist Church  
In  
Boston

per order of Mr Richard  
Droper in Boston



Dear Beloved Brother  
I take this opportunity to write to you and inform you that  
my family are all alive thro the Goodness of God tho  
<sup>my wife is</sup> something poorly and tho I meet with many diversities yet  
I have food and Raiment Blessed beyond but above all the  
Hopes of Eternal Life thro Jesus Christ Deserves my most  
Heartly thanks to the God of Salvation - why was I made to  
hear the voice: And Enter while there is Room: when thou-  
sands make a wretched Choice: and Rather stone than come: Wattle  
O Brother I am a Helpless woman called to a Great and important  
work and Have no strength nor wisdom but Glory to God he  
is not a Land of Darkness to me I have cause to speak well of  
his name it is a time of peace in the Church here and I think  
the work of God is upon the Gaining Hand there seems to be  
a Great thoughtfulness in some that as yet are not joined  
with us I intreat your prayers for me that I may be found  
faithfull and that a Divine Blessing might attend my labours  
and that I might be Enabled at all times when called to Lift  
up a Standard for the people - My Heartly Love is with you  
Longing to see you wishing the best of blessings to Rest  
upon you and the Zion of God I Rest you unworthy  
Dated in Ashfield Brother Ebenezer Smith  
the 2<sup>d</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month: 1769

Of the first of these Letters I write with a design to have  
sent it to you at the association at warren but missing  
of the opportunity I have sent it now  
Pray send me a few lines if you can

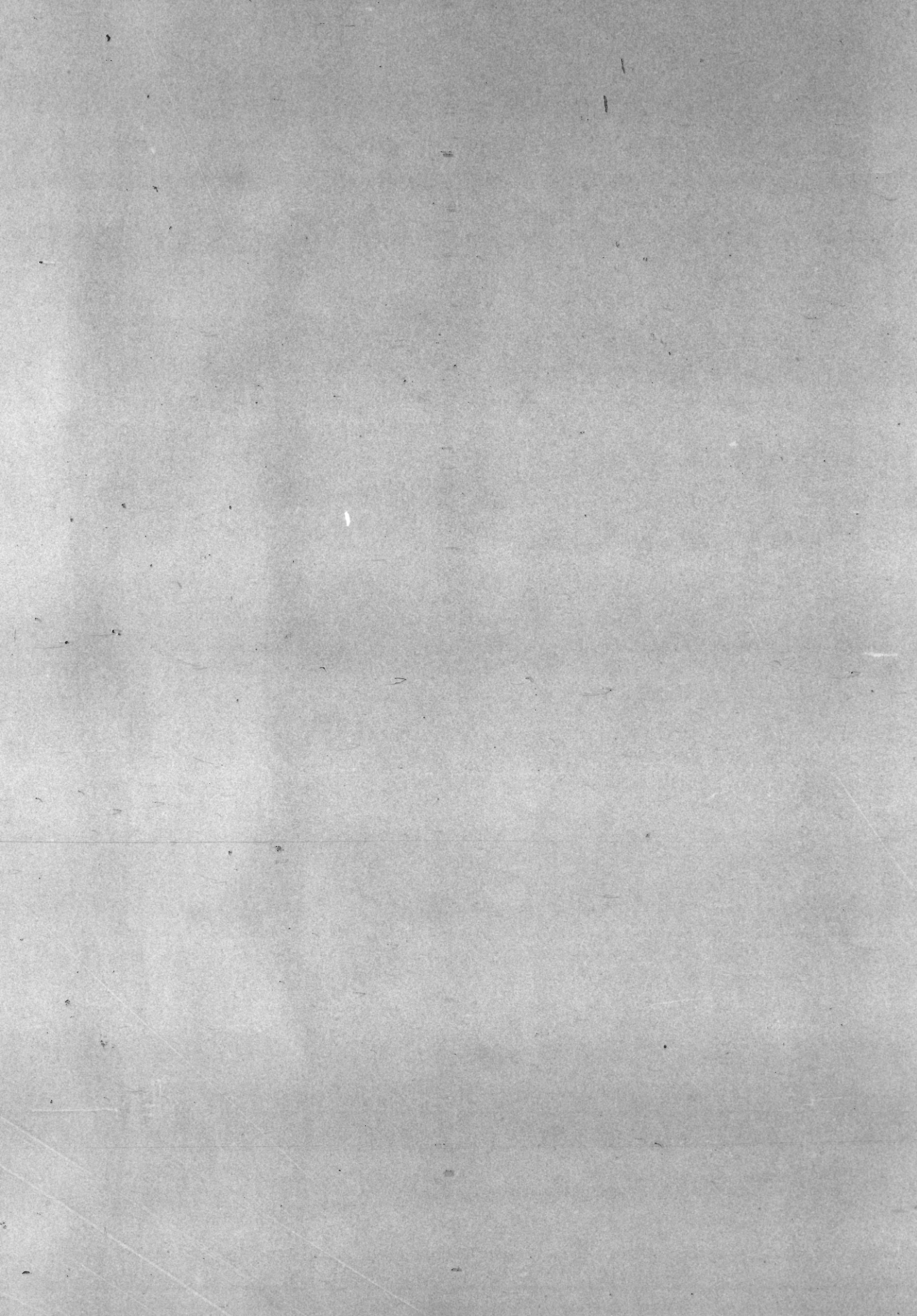
From Elder Smith  
of A. Field  
Nov. 2. 1769  
Recd. Dec 23.  
J. B.

To  
Mr. James Backus Elder  
Of the Baptist  
Church at Widdowrough

Ed. Elder Smith  
Letter Nov. 2. 1769









Dear Brother

I Received your Letter of April 19 for which  
I Return you thanks and I take this op-  
portunity to let you know, that I am my self  
in a measure of Health, thro' the goodness of  
God: we have had some Revival in Religion since  
I see you: Seven Have been added to the Chh  
but it seems to be a low time at present -  
and Now the Judgements of God Hang over America  
I think it becomes Zion Watchmen to stand in  
the watch tower: I find myself very unequal  
to the work I am called to: and should soon be  
discouraged: were it not that he that is able to help  
hath said. Lo I am with you! when I can Rest  
all there, sensible of my own weakness, and Christs  
strength I feel happy: I beg your prayers  
for me: my family and flock: that the work of  
the Lord might prosper in this place: Give  
my Love to your Wife and Children: and the  
flock of Christ with you: for I do wish well  
to Zion: and: my heart shall pray for Zion still  
while Life or breath remains - there my best friend  
my kindred dwell - there God my Saviour Reigns.  
Ashfield June 22: I Rest yours L. Eben<sup>r</sup> Smith  
A 1776.

Alm  
of West Backus  
Elder in  
Milledorogh

Elder Smith's  
letter from  
Ashfield June 22  
1796

Recd. June 30.  
J. B.



Dear Brother

The Church in this place - have desired me to  
write to you: concerning that affair of my father  
going to Philadelphia: as the association <sup>we intended</sup> ~~were~~  
desiring him to go: in order for him to relate  
some of the Baptist sufferings in New England  
to our Brethren there: and as they have sent  
some Relief, and left it with you and the Committee  
to send it where you think it ought to go -  
we inquire whether the cost of the Journey -  
ought not first to be paid out of it: Else instead  
of affording us any Relief: for our former sufferings  
now sending there: only brings more Charge upon us -  
he had a hind horse and by stumpling in the road  
was hurt - and was kept on charge thirty miles from  
home til the next Spring, before we could get it  
home - - and that you may know the Cost we  
have been at we send you an account of the Cost  
of the Journey: and for doctoring the horse: the  
Charge of his keeping: and some Journey thirty  
miles to take care of the horse and try to get him  
home - - And the damage done to the horse by  
being hurt: as prized by indifferent men - - and so  
leave it with you to do as you shall see fit - -  
So wishing Good mercy and peace to be with you -  
beginning your prayers for us -

Yours in Gospel Bonds

Ebenezer Smith

{ in behalf  
of the  
Church



An Account of Chileab Smith's Journey to  
Philadelphia Sept & Oct 1774

five weeks time at 18 pence per day -- £ 2 - 5 - 0  
all my own Expence<sup>and</sup> Doctoring of the same  
Horse until I got within 30 miles of home - 1 - 16 - 0

Where I left the horse for about five  
Months and the Charge of her doctoring  
and keeping is as follows (viz)

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| By Chileab Smith                  | 0 - 10 - 0 |
| By Isaac Shepard                  | 1 - 01 - 0 |
| By Chileab Smith gun <sup>r</sup> | 1 - 06 - 0 |
| By Moses Smith                    | 0 - 06 - 0 |
| By Enos Smith                     | 0 - 04 - 0 |

The Damage the Horse sustained.

(Being prized off by in-fernal men)

by being Hipst

|            |
|------------|
| 3 - 0 - 0  |
| 10 - 8 - 0 |

Rec. Oct. 27. 9. B.

Chileab Smith  
Oct. 2. 1776





By Enos Smith

The Damage the More sustained

(Being prized off by in effort men)

by being first

3 - 0 - 0  
10 - 8 - 0

0 - 04 - 0

Rec. Oct. 27. J. B.

Geo. W. Smith  
Oct. 2. 1776.



Dear Brother

Athfield Oct 22 - 1778

Wishing Grace mercy and peace to be with you, your family  
and flock: thro the Goodness of god I am forced to keep  
about; tho something unwell: my family are all about  
it is a Generall time of Health here: the affairs of  
the Church Remain much as it was when I see you --  
I went to Chesterfield the Next week after I see you  
and preached there twice: they met in the meeting house  
I found a good many that appeared to be very much  
in search after the truth: I baptized one person  
there: that Come forth wonderfull Clear: I Received  
a Letter from Mountague Church: that Elders Baly was  
to be there the 2<sup>d</sup> Lords Day in this month, and they de-  
fined me to come the 9<sup>th</sup> Lords Day: when I Purpose to  
go if the Lord will: Give my Love to sister Backus &  
all my friends and yours: I Beg an intrest in your  
Prayers: and the most unworthy I take the liberty  
to subscribe myself your Brother in Christ.

Ebenezer Smith

Pls Mr Jesse Edson the bearer of this Letter: will  
be at Bridgewater the first week in November; and  
expects to set out for Home the latter End of the week  
if this gets to you soon Enough: and you can send  
them Books and the minutes of the Association to  
Mr Ezra Edsons: he will take them there and bring  
them to me: if you have got them printed and can  
do it I shall be glad: for I know not when I can  
find to Boston for them -- Pray send me a line  
or two if you can; for I Long to hear from  
you.



to  
the Rev.  
Isaac Backus of  
Middleborough

Esq. Smith  
Oct. 22. 1798

Rec. Oct. 31.

L. B.



Rev Sir

As the Differences in this Church have made a great Noise  
in the Land, I here send you a Copy of the Result of the  
Council, that you may have a Right understanding of the  
matter, and make such use of it, in a private or publick  
manner as you shall think proper, there is now more  
than two weeks Run out since the Council, and that part of the  
Church that have opposed against me, have not said one word to me  
Conferencing the Result of the Council, But they keep off, and  
do not come to meeting with me, I have agreed to preach to the  
Society, and that part of the Church that are called in the Result  
the Greened members, two Lords days more, and what will be  
Concluded on then I cannot yet tell; - I Obey your prayers  
and the prayers of all God people, that may understand my  
circumstances; that I may be directed to do that which shall be  
for his Glory; and that he would open a way in his Providence  
that I may yet have opportunity to preach his Gospel to  
my fellow men (if it be his will) for I do Esteem the  
word of his mouth, more than my necessary food -  
But I desire to Commit my self and all to God believing  
he will order all things well, My best Love to you  
and Engaging friends, I Rest you morning  
Brother and fellow Labourers in the Lord  
Affectioned Son 13<sup>th</sup> 1787  
Ebeneser Smith

If if you have any word of Advice, to send to  
me, I shall Gladly Receive it -

Ever also to hear of you willfare - I have not  
Received the minutes of the two last associations  
I hope to attend the Next if you if please to  
spare me so long

Alfred Dec 26 - 1785

At a Council held at the Baptist meeting House in P. Athol.  
Present Elder Peter Warden Bro<sup>r</sup> Jos<sup>th</sup> Richardson Gideon Hinman  
Stephen Carpenter from Doris Church - Bro<sup>r</sup> J<sup>h</sup> Smith John  
Call from Cohasset Church - 1<sup>st</sup> Chas<sup>r</sup> Elmer Warden Worcester  
2<sup>nd</sup> J<sup>h</sup> Carpenter Scituate - - 3. took into consideration  
the difficulty subsisting between the Elder and Chh; laborers  
all day brought Nothing to a point; Adjourned till to morrow  
morning ten o'clock -  
Wednesday 27 met according to adjournment, Elder Obed Warden and  
Brother Joseph Warden from Holliston Church mutually joined  
the Council -  
The Chh proceeded to give a further Narrative of their difficulties -  
The Chh informed the Council that the union between the Elder and  
Chh was dissolved, and charged the Elder with breaking the union  
by declining after the publick Exercise on thanksgiving day 1784  
that he did not intend to go into the meeting house to preach again -  
till he was properly invited in the Chh Exhibited a Record of their  
proceedings in Regard to the Elders declining preaching of the  
fore mentioned to this purpose (Viz) that the Question being  
asked in a Chh meeting whether they could invite the Elder to  
preach with them, under the present circumstances; answered they could  
not - that at a nother meeting. the Chh Voted; that as Elder Smith  
has left the Chh and will not come near them for any more laboring  
that under the present circumstances he is no longer the pastor  
or Elder of this Chh - - that in August 1785, when Elder Clark  
was present; the Church Voted, that the Elder and Chh do agree, to  
meet together for divine worship as we did before there was a divi-  
sion amongst us a Reconciliation being so far obtained by the  
labors that has been upon the matter of difficulty among us  
That at another meeting the Chh Voted, that they acted in the agree-  
ment upon a mistaken Idea and that a agreement if a Bill and Voto  
After the Chh had given a Narrative of their difficulties, the  
Elder proceeded to give an account of the matter of his agreement  
and the course of his making a publick stand; and some Evidence  
Exhibited to prove J<sup>h</sup> Smith; also a number of Quereis between -  
Gave an account of the Chhes proceeding in excluding them from the  
the fellowship of the Chh - - After which the Council sat  
Open: and agreed to the following Resolt (Viz)  
The Council are Unanimously agreed; that when Elder Smith de-  
clined preaching any longer till he was invited - that his  
stand as to his publick ministry: the Council are of opinion that  
the Elder had Weighty Reasons for his standing



12 that as to the matter of the elders withdrawing from his public improvement he is justifiable - so that it is our opinion that the church charge of the church against the elder for breach of union, is not supported and that the churches proceedings toward the elder since that time, in withdrawing him out of his office and other things of the like kind of course is invalid.

The Council proceeded to take into consideration the churches proceedings toward the Grieved Brethren - and unanimously agreed that as to the matter and manner of the churches proceedings, in Rejecting those Brethren after they had agreed, to invite a council to look into their case; and give advice; and those Brethren were at the same time seeking for means for Reconciliation; and by their so Rejecting them preventing them from obtaining their desires, and put a stop to the proposed Council; that these Brethren have Cause of Grief, and that the Chh did not discover that agreeable engagement for union with the J Brethren agreeable to Gospel Direction.

And now brethren our Christian Advice to you is, that in the first Place, you Remove all Grounds of uneasiness from the Elders, by letting him know that he is properly Received in the office you once so solemnly put him in, and that you prove the truth of the article of belief, in Relation to the support of the Gospel, by letting him know, that you have made him a Reasonable Compensation for the faithful full labours he as a minister of Christ, and your peace and Restored on you - We desire the Grieved Brethren, upon your taking up your dealings with them, to take this place with you, and you with them, in a penitent manner acknowledging your faults one to the other, and praying one for the other, and you and your Elders and brethren unite in peace, and either continue your Relation of Church and pastor or remove your pastor in peace that his usefulness may continue in some other part of the Vineyard until he may be called home, to Enjoy the fruit of his labours in full Perfection - Brethren we Rest with our prayers for you  
witnessed in behalf of the Council

All the Council were  
unanimous in the Result  
as above

Peter Wadsworth Moderator

Steph Carpenter Scribe

A true Copy

Elizabeth Smith

To the  
Rev. John Barber  
Wickliffe, Ind.  
in their conveyance

---

Elder E. Smith.  
Jan. 13. 1787.

Recd. Sept. 11 -  
J. B.



Beloved Brother

Ashfield Feb 1 1790

I Received your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> Last. was  
glad to hear that you were well. in Regard to here of  
the work of god in our Southern States, may it spread  
far and wide until the whole Earth is filled with the  
knowledge of god, as the waters cover the sea. That  
the Controversy is very trying, at this day, in Regard of  
real obedience to the laws of Christ in his House. and in  
particular in the Regard to the support of ministers, I am  
vergeable, and by a clause in your letter I expect you  
have heard that I have insisted upon a certain sum, and  
I the rather conclude so, because I know such a Report  
has been spread here, the utterly void of truth, as my  
constant practice has evince, to every one that is ac-  
quainted with it: and which I can prove from the  
Records of them that are divided from me: their Clerk  
and two more were sent to talk with me, and after they  
were gone from me, the Clerk writ what I said to them  
and laid it before the Chh in the following words, Viz  
"That some method should be come into, with Regard to his  
"support so that it might be a chh act, and be known  
"what each one did, and altho he thinks that an Enverage or  
"Subscription would be the best, yet he would consent  
"to any plan, whereby the Brotherly love watch might be  
"kept up." Jan<sup>y</sup> 10. 1780." taken from their Clerks own  
hand writing, after this in a church meeting the follow-  
ing Votes were passed: Viz. "At a chh meeting  
"Sept 20. 1780 the Elders Read a subscription paper, and  
"asked the Chh whether they could agree to that or some-  
"thing similar, Answered that they could not.  
"Voted, to Chose a Committee to look into the Elders  
"Journals; and see what he stands in present need of.  
"and make Report to the chh at our next monthly  
"meeting: And that they shall do it once in three months  
"to which the Elders agreed." taken from a copy of the re-  
cord now before me. but the next Lord Day they called a  
notice meeting and voted it all null and void, and have nothing  
for me since; Except one of them gave me one word of com-

I leave it to your brother to judge, whether this is like my  
insisting upon a certain form, and Censuring people for not  
coming up to it, nor for be it from me, & never had  
such a thought; to do after that manner, my Difficulty  
with this people is not, because they did not do enough for  
me, but their Breach of promise, (one instance of  
which you may observe, in the votes just mentioned)  
and their Receiving one Shevory; a man of very bad  
Character to Disturb persons among them; and then one  
of their private members, taking upon him under  
a pretence of a call from God, to do the same, and  
they approve of it; by Receiving such persons  
into their Church as being Baptized, I think it is  
Contrary to Gospel Order, and Contrary to the  
mind of the Association, & appears by the minutes  
in 1772 so likewise I find it Condemned by the  
Philadelphia Association; as to the matter of dispute  
between us; there has been three publick hearings by  
indifferent men, the judgment of the first Council was  
to be before the Association at Farnbridge in 1788  
the second after laying the matter open have these answers  
viz. "whereas it appears to us by their own Record  
" that Elder Smith and his adherents, have not departed  
" from the original Constitution and principles on  
" which he the said Elder was ordained as pastor of the  
" Church of Christ of the Baptist Denomination in the  
" said town of Ashfield,"

the Last Report is in the words following viz

- 21 Ashfield Sept 10 1789  
21 at a Conference held at the Baptist meeting House  
21 in Ashfield by a Member of Eday and brethren  
21 from the Chh in support Elder John Hastings, De  
21 Jacob Winchel, Dea Ephraim Robins, Daniel Porter  
21 Westfield Elder Stor, Brother Philemon Little  
21 Ebenezer meachen, wheately Elder Aba Todd, wried  
21 Elder Eliapim meachel, Levi Dodge, Daniel Little  
21 Elder Hastings moderator, Ephraim Robins Secle



After opening the meeting by solemn prayer; the people  
of God in that place, laid before the Conference, a num-  
ber of Grievances which for some time have subsisted  
among them; after hearing them through, the Conference  
retired by themselves, and after taking the matter into  
mature Consideration, voted, that it is our opinion; that  
a Report of Counsel, <sup>to</sup> with them <sup>Dec. 26. 1786</sup>  
is just - and that we <sup>agree with the Divine</sup> give  
by <sup>of</sup> Counsel — signed by order and in  
behalf of the Conference <sup>gathering</sup> moderator

Dear Brother

Eph<sup>m</sup> Robins Junr

I wish from my very Heart, for a Reconciliation  
with my Brethren: but I cannot join with  
those things that appear to me to be so contrary  
to the Gospel, and are grieved so, by all my brethren  
that have had a fair hearing of the Case; though  
the man that undertook to baptize a member, has  
since acknowledged, he was out of the way, and  
went too fast, yet the baptism they hold good,  
and take them into the Chh upon it; I was  
present, and see the powerfull operation of the  
Spirit that they were under, which they call  
the Spirit of God; and their ordination I cannot  
look upon any better; it all appears to me to  
be done in a spirit of Enthusiasm, and quite  
out of Gospel Rule and order: but I forbear,  
the Reason of my giving you this Brief hint,  
is a Report that is spread here. that Elder  
Backus has Recommended some of his members to  
them as a Church of Christ; and to him that  
they call ordained as a minister Christ — I beg  
your earnest Prayers to God for me, that I  
might be kept in the strict way in this trying  
day; and that God would appear for the help

I hope you will write to me as often as  
you can

of the people. Give my love to all friends; my  
 family and well the goodness of God; I hope these  
 will find you and yours for; may the peace of God  
 Rule in all our hearts. from your unworthy brother  
 and fellow labourer in the Gospel of Christ  
 Rev Isaac Backus in Ebenezer Smith

Ebenezer Smith  
 Feb. 1. 1790  
 Recd. June 10.  
 S. B.

Rev  
 Isaac Backus  
 Middleborough

Answered Aug. 27. 1790.  
 S. B.









Rev and Dear Sir

Appled Jan 17. 1775

After my love to you, would inform you that I am yet  
alive thro the goodness of God; and from <sup>a concern</sup> ~~for~~ for  
the Cause of Christ am set down to write a few lines to  
you. I find by the minutes of your last association -  
that a church in aspired Requested to be Related to the  
Association, and you was appointed to write to them, which  
Letter I have seen. and as you say you have not sufficient  
light to divide upon our affairs: good I yet inform you that  
we have had a large Council, who have heard the matters  
between us: and Left their result, in which they say  
of four Charges they brought against me, was not supported,  
and another was very abrupt and cruel: and yet they refuse  
to make any Retraction; but passing by the ~~the~~ Difficulties  
between me and them; they have those members in their  
Church, that Enos dipped before he was ordained, who the Com-  
mittee said ought not to be in fellowship in a Baptist Church;  
you say in your Letter, the Baptist formerly held that an  
internal Call to preach the Gospel, gave a right to ad-  
minister Baptism before ordination: so David's necessity gave  
him a right to eat the shew bread: which yet did not make  
it lawful at another time; but Enos did not pretend to have  
any such Call (at that time) to preach the Gospel, but  
baptized because it did not belong to preachers to do it,  
but any brother in the Church had a right to baptize  
and he and the Church with him, gloried in this, that  
they had got a new Discoverie of light, that the Church  
Never see before; and there was no necessity of it.  
For they had sent to Elder Hamilton to come and  
baptize those very persons; and sent three names to him  
and he come at the time that they appointed themselves  
that made Elder Hamilton tell them, when he came that  
it was like making a fool of him, to send to him  
to come 40 miles to baptize, and then do it before he  
come.



I am fir, I was present and see and heard these things --  
that I know what I write to be the truth; and it gave  
great occasion for people to reproach the Baptists; but as  
I could tell them that our association did not fellowship  
such things, and I hope that it may never be so, that  
they do: you Remember what was voted in the women  
association in the year 1772 Concerning those persons that  
were dipped by E. W., and the note that you put in at  
the foot of the page: and I Really think that what  
E. W. did, was Gospel Baptism, as much as what E, J, did  
and if we may Receive one; we may also the other, and  
so be a hindrance to all Gospel External order; but I believe  
we had better attend to rule yet;

you say in your letter you wish to promote their wel-  
fare in the best manner you can: I can truly say  
I wish the same; and is it not the best way to promote  
their welfare; to try to bring them to see their mistakes, and  
and take them out of the way: you direct them to re-  
view their conduct towards me and my brethren, and remove  
things out of our way, but they have made no attempts that  
way yet, neither have I any reason to think they ever  
will; unless some divine power should take hold of their  
minds: which I pray God might be the case;

I hope fir, you will Carefully Consider these things  
and I pray God that you, and the women association,  
may be directed to do that which shall be agreeable to  
his will: in these things: and Sincerely begging  
your prayers, for one of the most unworthy of all  
Christ's ministers: I beg leave to subscribe  
myself your brother in tribulation, and in the  
kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ

Rev<sup>d</sup> John Backus  
Middleborough

Ebenezer Smith  
8.6.01  
3541-01  
24. May 1783



Dear brother

Ashfield Sept 2 1791

After Christian Salutation, I would inform you  
that I and my family are well, through Divine mercy  
as I hope these will find you; your kind letter of  
April 17 I received; and with it a present of 2  
Books, for which I return my hearty thanks —  
you say you do not send a full answer to my letter  
of Jan 1 nor Mr Alden; but a full answer I  
should be very glad to see: for what I write to  
you there is the truth; I rejoice to hear of  
a Reconciliation between you and some of your bre-  
thren: O that God would grant; that the time  
might come, when I could send you of God's tidings  
from here, but at present there is no appearance of  
it — but as long as Jesus lives I think we need not  
be discouraged, the Church with me is in peace and  
harmony; and there appears to be good attention in the  
Congregation to the preaching of the word though —  
not only <sup>thing</sup> very special: I am glad to hear of the out-  
pouring of the Spirit of God in our place, when I  
was at the Shoptbury Association last June, Elder  
Powers informed of a very great work of God moving  
his people; and in their parts, and I heard from them  
about a month ago that it still continued and spread  
I was in hopes to have been down to the Women's Association  
this month, but I have two journeys to take another  
way this fall — and but gett some off of one —  
that I think I cannot come down, may the Lord  
direct each of our hearts in to the love of God  
and into the patient waiting for Christ, I Rest you  
brother in Gospel Bonds Ebenezer Smith



John Eden  
Jas Backus  
Middleborough

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Ben<sup>n</sup>. Smith,  
Sept. 2<sup>d</sup> 1791  
Recd. Sept. 19.  
J.B.



Dear brother

Ashfield April 7<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1791

Wishing mercy and peace to be with you, Hoping these  
will find you & yours well, as this divine mercy, they leave  
me and mine; an answer to your letter of Nov<sup>r</sup> last, I sent  
some time ago; which I hope you have Received: I have  
Nothing of importance to write: but what is contained in that  
answer: things remain among us much as they were; I  
feel steadfast and immovable in the faith and order that  
I profess; when I first gained acquaintance and fellowship  
with you; though some of my <sup>friends</sup> in millford told me a few  
months ago; that they were informed that I was instated in  
the other denomination with a stated salary; and they  
thought it was true; till I told them otherwise: what  
people mean in Reporting so many untruths about me  
I know not, but the truth will bear away the victory  
I should be glad to hear from you: always Remember me  
in your prayers, that I might be Enabled to stand fast  
in the faith, my love to all Enquiring friends; may  
the Lord appear in his glory and build up Zion —

From your brother in tribulation, and in the  
Kingdom in patience of Jesus Christ

Ebenezer Smith

Rev<sup>d</sup> Isaac Backus

Recd  
Alma Beckwith  
Wiltborough

Clonessa Smith  
Aug 9. 1891.  
Recd. Apr. 14.

of record  
by Mrs. Green



Dear Brother

Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> last I Received; to which I  
would now give you an answer. I know that Capt  
Prime did pay £ 5-6-8 for me in Conway; but it  
was before the time that I mentioned in my Letter to  
you; which I can prove by living Evidence; that  
what I asserted to you in my Letter; I still maintain  
to be the truth; and further I can give you this  
Evidence of the truth of it. (Viz) they voted that  
Agreement about my support the 20<sup>th</sup> of Sept; as appears  
by the date of the record notes before me, and after the  
meeting broke up that very day; he agreed with me to pay it  
they made it void the 11<sup>th</sup> of October following and then  
he told me he had paid it; and I offered to pay him  
but he would not take it, from this 11 of Oct 1786  
I said they had done nothing for me but one bushel  
of Corn; and I say so yet: you may Remember what  
you writ to me Oct 17 86 <sup>which in your Letter of</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> last you say appears to be a mistake, and I  
think it is no small matter for a man to go a  
130 miles to Report that which is not true to wrong  
another's Character; and the heaven would do well  
to Remember what the wise men say, of him that  
is first in his own cause; and of him that Judge  
eth a matter before he heareth it; I as to these  
Baptizing as they do, after all their Confession  
one of their members told me before many witness  
that the thing was right, but only it offended  
other people; and therefore not Expedient, and one  
of their leading members held it to be right, when  
the rest suspect it as they did, and by all that  
I can learn done to day: is it holding up the  
imperfection of others for a man to answer for him  
self when falsely accuse; as you Brother are  
Convinced I have been; as appears by your former  
Letter, there is no need of my Holding up  
them as they have done that themselves in a  
very

very open manner; and Had they told you the truth  
I should not had occasion to have write to you of  
I did before, I am far from thinking that all the  
powerfull operations that Have been among  
them; are Enthusiasm; no, I Have Reason to  
think that some souls were saving wrought upon  
by the spirit of God; but yet I must needs think  
that there were many things among them that were  
not from the true spirit, and that of their Baptizing  
for one, which was done, professedly by special  
influence of the spirit, and the man that Baptized  
told me, (long after his Confession) that he was led  
by the spirit of God at that time as he believed -  
had you seen and Heard them things as I did -  
yea; and had them come into your field and  
pull up your flock when it was growing; as one  
of their young Converts, and member of their Church  
did into mine. Perhaps you would be apt to think  
there was some Enthusiasm among them as well  
as I; you little know the grief that I Have felt  
by what Has Happened in this place: and now for  
an aged minister to charge me with doing what the  
opposers of the work of God did fifty years ago is  
very Hard: I believe a real internal <sup>Change</sup> of mind  
will produce an external Conformity to Christ's form  
and Order, and that they both ought to be attended  
too: you say that Capt Hoby Complains that  
I had the judgement of a Council; as a rule for  
them to submit to, in order for a free Labour to  
settle our Difficultys: it will be hard for him to  
prove what he has said: so far from it, that  
when Elder Hamilton was a mind to Have one  
of the Council called: in order for a free Labour he  
could



Could not get them willing; tho' I always told him  
I was Ready at any time: and finally he had to  
go and get some Elders and brethren to come himself  
and when they come to hear the case between us  
face to face, they agreed to the Report of the former  
Council as just; and agreed in their advice: it is true  
I believe they passed a Righteous Judgment —

but I am far from making that a Rule. but I desire  
to take advice when it agrees with truth, and desire others  
to do the same: I do Earnestly desire you my dear  
Brother; before you write to me again, to get some  
further proof, of the truth of what you hear about  
me; then the bare word of one of my opposers, for by  
some means or other they do not tell things as they  
are, I have no desire to bind any man in religious matters  
only further than the conviction of truth will do it,

I hope I shall have opportunity to see you  
at the next Association if not before; that we  
may speak freely of these things face to face —  
I desire I may not add to your suffering, and wish  
you might not be found to strengthen their hands  
that ought not to be strengthened in the way that  
they are now in: that the Lord may guide our  
feet in the way of peace: and Enable us to finish  
our Course with joy, is the Earnest prayer  
of your friend and Brother in the Kingdom and  
Patience of Jesus Christ

Ashefield Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Ebenezer Smith

A 1791

If that the out pouring of the spirit of God puts  
a stop to singing and dancing, I believe, and all other  
things, how far Christian forbearance ought to go on  
where discipline ought to take place, is what has ex-  
ercised many godly minds, I Endeavour to behave in  
these things, as I think the Gospel Rule directs

To  
Rev Isaac Perkins  
Middleborough

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Eliza Smith,  
Jan. 1. 1791.  
Recd. Jan. 16.  
J. B.



Dear Brother

Albion Sept 30 1870

Yours of Aug 29 I Received the 29 instant. and  
Elihu Hicks coming ~~here~~ to see me last Evening I took  
this opportunity to send you a few Lines: I think it is  
no small mistake for men that profess Christianity, to send  
a fals report a 130 miles to Hunt anothers Corroborate, and  
in the face of their own Recos, too, and which has been  
publicly Confuted a number of times, but that is not the on-  
ly fals Report that has been told to wrong my convert, by  
that people that you Recommend your members too; and it  
was very surprizing to ~~people~~ here when it was told, that  
Elihu Gookus has Recommended Mr. Jesson and his wife to  
them as a Church of Christ: knowing that they has been  
Condemned by all the Elders in Churches that has heard the case  
and were also Dropt out of the Women Association. I am  
sensible that holding such baptisms void as are done by  
persons not ordained is attended with difficulties, and getting  
out of the way of truth always brings difficulty; but I  
think we had better take the Apostles advice; and with-  
draw our selves from every brother that works thus dishonestly  
tho't to wound the Reemery Cause by Holding fellowship  
with them; I am directed not to partake of other mens sins  
I chose such dishonesty persons should bear their own  
burdens; and Wish to keep myself pure: 2 Thess 3-6  
1 Tim 5-22. Gal. 6-5: the lying side of the word of truth  
and going by Revelations and our own devices, has filled our  
world with much confusion; and I think them that seem  
to be pillars, need to be Exceeding Carefull not to countenance  
such things; I allow the Essence of baptism is in the  
answers of a good conscience: but how is that answered  
when they professedly go Contrary to Gospel Rule, as was  
the case here: they Held it their principle that a private  
brother had a right to baptize. I was present and felt  
and know or I should not ~~ad~~ a sense of it.

but my time is short; pardon me that I have taken the  
liberty to write my mind so freely: I hope you will not  
be offended: I sincerely wish you much of the divine presence  
should Rejoice to see you that we might converse together  
mean time I beg your prayers for me: my Love be with  
you and yours: Grace be with thee Amen  
from your unworthy brother in Christ  
Ebenes<sup>r</sup> Smith

Eben. Smith,  
Sept. 30. 1790.  
Rec. May 1. 1791.  
J. B.

Recd  
of Aaron Barker  
Willsborough









Wm. Sir

Appleby Nov. 3. 1789

Being informed by Brother Josiah Leonard, that you was Desirous  
I should write to you something concerning the work of God Amongst us,  
with Pleasure I take my pen for that purpose, and shall endeavour to  
give you a just & brief Account how the Lord began and Carried on his work  
in this place. <sup>of which I have been an eye-witness</sup> For some years past the Church in this place have been  
under Heavy Trials on Account of our Elders Leaving us, and Councils dis-  
tifying him and Disowning the Church: of which things I conclude you are  
not Altogether Ignorant - the Society also almost all left us, and  
forced us out of our Meeting house: the Association Drove us from their  
Body - the World Made a Mock and Derision of us, it seem'd we were for-  
saken of Man, and Nothing to trust to but our God, and his word for our Guide  
under these Dark Scams of Providence, we Agreed to set apart some time  
weekly for solemn Fasting and prayer to Almighty God for the outpour-  
ing of his blessed Spirit Amongst us. &c. this was about the beginning of  
Sept. 1788 - in our first Meeting of this kind Nothing special appears but  
Great Earnestness in Crying to God - At our second Meeting a few of the  
Vain youth come to see and hear, and every one of them in hearing the Chris-  
tians wrestle with God in Prayer. were Cut to the Heart, the Power of the  
Lord came down in a wonderful Manner, - so that they began to Cry  
out in Distress for their souls, - one Instance I will mention in Particular  
of a young man who had joined the Church about 8 years before, but had  
fell away into Vanity, and was excommunicated, he being a work  
not far from the house where we met, came into the other part of the  
house and went into the Chamber over the Meeting, that he might hear  
and not be Discovered - but it was not long before he was forced to come  
Down into the meeting Crying out and Confessing - O says he them  
Prayers that I heard when I was in the Chamber, Pierced my very soul  
it seem'd to me they Echo'd clear <sup>in</sup> to Heaven; and he was soon after  
restored to the fellowship of the Church again - the Next Sabbath all  
that were at this Meeting Met with us (Left the Meeting house where they  
us'd to go) and several others, coming to see what the Matter was were  
Convicted, many Crying out and Confessing how they had made a laugh  
and a mock at the Church: begging their Pardon - After this we had  
two meetings in a week besides first days, for some Months, our Meetings  
were full and crowded and often would continue almost all night,  
many times Great numbers at once Crying out in the utmost Distress  
of soul, pender a sense of their lost undone Condition, their sins as  
black as sackcloth and like Mountains to sink them down to the Bottom  
in the pit of Everlasting Misery. and a view of Gods Holy and Righte-  
ous Law, just and unchangable: Condemning every transgressor, and  
a vast eternally opening to their view, these things made them Cry out in  
the bitterness of their souls - But as we read, a short work will the Lord  
make upon the Earth - so the work of Conviction in Genl. was short upon  
these souls, before they found Comfort in the blessed Redeemer. -  
But it was exceeding Powerfull, Never did mine Eyes Behold such  
a time before. Almost all that come to our Meetings were Affected  
and indeed it seem'd enough to Affect the Heart of a Stone to hear

the



The Cry of Souls in Distress... Those whose voices a little before  
were filled with Laughter and civil Communications, were now lament-  
ing their past sins, and crying to God for Mercy: the woods, the groves  
and secret Places Echo'd with Groans, Sobs and Cries to Heaven for help  
O! what a change And Alteration in a few weeks was made in this place  
Glorify to God and to the Lamb forever and ever for the wonders he hath  
wrought — But it was not long before one and another began  
to Change their Key and sing Redeeming Love and Grace, that  
in our Meetings many would be rejoicing and Praising, <sup>or</sup> whilst others  
were crying out in Distress: Thus whilst the Timber was Preparing  
in the Mountains for the Spiritual Building; Many that did not  
come into the work would cry out that it was Delusion a Shaker  
Spirit and what not — and some would complain of the old Christians  
because they did not regulate the young ones and keep them to order  
But Blessed be God, his Spirit is the Best Regulator of his own work!  
— But to proceed — the work went on in this manner till the 12 day  
of Oct: 1788. this day ten Persons in a regular manner provided to give  
a relation of what the Lord had done for their Souls. the Assembly  
with Great Solemnity gave Attention to their Relations, the Church  
gave them fellowship, and when they were baptiz'd they were added to  
the Church — the Nature and Substance of their Relations were as  
follows (Viz) 1. their understandings being enlightened to see themselves  
Lost and undone Creatures all over polluted with sins both by Nature  
and Practice. 2. a view of Gods Holy Law in its spiritualty, require-  
ing perfect obedience; where by they were set off from all their own works  
and brought to see that they could not help themselves. — 3. A Discove-  
ry of the Justice of God in casting them off forever, where by they were  
brought to judge and condemn themselves for their sins, and thus acquiescing  
in the Justice of God, to fall Down Guilty, Lost helpless Perishing Cre-  
tures at the foot of a Sovereign God. — Lastly in this Moment of Distress  
having a Discovery made to their Souls by Faith of the Blessed Jesus  
in his Outableness, and Sufficiency and Willingness to save them — and  
they by his Grace enabled to Lay hold of his Merits and Righteousness  
for their Acceptance before God — and to Repine him with all their Souls  
in all his Offices — Now the Burden and Guilt of sin is gone: peace  
and Tranquillity of Mind ensues, the Cry of their Souls is Lord what  
wilt thou do for me — Praising and Adoring free Grace —  
Wondering & Admiring the wisdom Love and Power that has led them  
in such a way — Calling upon all to Come, last and see that the  
Lord is Good! — Thus after this 12<sup>th</sup> of Oct: from time  
to time were Additions made to our Numbers — so that that day  
and since there has been 77 Added by Baptism & Excommunication  
Restored. 3 that were Baptiz'd 8 years before but did not join in Covenant  
and 6 from other Churches in the whole 84 Added to our Commu-  
nion — in which Number are included 19 Members who were the 22<sup>d</sup>  
of July last set off as a church by them selves in Buckland —

O my Dear Elder, can you join with me to Bless and Praise Redeem-  
ing Love that so many Souls have been made (we hope) to traffick his  
Love and Grace and to be Roll'd as Living Stones into his spiritual  
House the Church — and that when all Men seem'd as it were to  
be seeking to pull Down and Destroy the little Zion of God here

the



Lord has appeared to build it up  
O that we may ever trust in him  
and no other, who Always doth  
all things well —

I Beg your Prayers for me that I  
may be kept from falling — That I  
may ever lie at Jesus feet, and be  
obedient to his Will

with out me "says our Divine  
Lord ye can do Nothing" I find it true  
by Dayly Experience — many trials yet  
Attend us and we want wisdom from above

It Appears to me as if our Baptist Churches  
in General were Loosing Ground, and many  
of the Ministers in special falling from what  
they once profest. — But I am but a child  
and know Nothing — — You Sir have had  
Long Experience and God has Given you a  
Great understanding in Gospel Mysteries, I  
wish you to take the trouble to write to me  
some thing of your mind Concerning the state  
of Zion: and what the Lord is a Calling for  
at this day — Also request your Advice  
and Counsel, and shall receive it as from  
a Father in Zion.

I must conclude wishing the Best of heavens  
Blessings to Rest upon you and your Family  
and the Flock of your Charge  
Praying God to make you a long Lasting  
Blessing in Zion.

I Beg leave the Most unworthy  
to subscribe my self your  
Loving Brother in Christ.

Elder Isaac Beddies  
Pastor of a Baptist Church  
in Middleborough

Enoch Smith



Enos Smith.

Nov. 3. 1789.

Recd. Nov. 18. 1790.

J. B.

Elder Isaac Backus

In

Middleborough

See the letter was found by one of my friends  
in the way on our town last week.  
Brook open  
Slutty march 15  
Thos. Crocker  
1790



Elder Isaac Beechey

In

Middleborough

Eng. Smith  
Mar. 6. 1790.  
Recd. Sept. 4.  
J. B.

Esq. Smith.

Nov. 3. 1789.

Recd. March 18. 1790.

J. B.

Elder Isaac Backus

In

Middleborough

For the letter was found by one of my friends  
in the highway on our road last week.  
Brookton  
Gloucester march 15 -  
1790 -  
Thos. Crocker



Dear Elder

I Received your favour of Feb<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> day before yesterday - am  
sorry that you have not received the Letter sent, wherein you  
would have had an Account of the Late work of God in this parish  
I heartily agree with your Idea of the Pernicious Nature of  
the Imagination that true Religion and true Liberty are not  
Conformant - I Also believe with you that to have all our  
thoughts and Actions Governed by Gods <sup>will</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> and our  
will Intirely Acquiescing in the Divine <sup>will</sup> is the best Freedom  
that can be - Great Peace have they that have this Law and  
Nothing shall offend them... Whom the Son makes free  
they are free indeed. O this Blest Freedom, makes poor  
Captivity souls sing for joy of heart, when under a sense of their  
wretched Condition; they feel its balmy Influence, which will  
in its very Nature Draw forth all our love & thankfull Praises  
to God the Author of all Good. Not unto us, - But unto thy  
Name be the Glory! - Now Sir to Answer your Request  
I shall Give a brief Account of Religious Matters amongst us  
- hoping you may yet receive my former Letter. I shall not  
now write so particularly concerning the Reformation; but  
A General Sketch of it - and then something of the Present  
situation of things here - The Reformation begun here in  
September. 1788. When it was an Exceeding dark time with the Church  
Many having forsaken us and joined confederacy with the world among  
whom was our beloved Pastor, which was a Great Grief. But when  
Councils and all had forsaken us. the Lord was pleased to take us up  
About the fourth watch of the Night (in the Misting) when we were  
Rowing and toiling for the wind, was contrary. Jesus Comes, and  
I heard it revived the Drooping Spirits of the weary Pilgrims  
to see by faith the Almighty Saviour, their Lovely Friend Come  
ing. upon the Waters of trouble the Rolling waves becoming smooth  
before him. the Mountains flowed down at his Presence and  
the Hills did Melt. sinners began to cry out in Distress for their  
souls. and the Storm and tumult went on and increased among poor  
souls in Distress at a sight of their wretched Condition. like as in  
the Camp of the Philistines when Israel God went forth with  
Jonathan & his Arrow maner - such a Powerfull work of God  
- as before saw - Convictions were Exceeding Powerfull but short  
as it is said a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.  
soon the Distressing Crys of many were turned. to joyfull songs  
of Praise and Adoration to Almighty God for his Marvellous Conde-  
- scension and Goodness, in Discovering the Blest Jesus <sup>to</sup> them as  
their soul satisfying Portion, and thus the work went on  
(Glory to Father, Son. and Holy Ghost forever & ever) -  
So that since Oct<sup>r</sup> 1788 there has been seventy two Added to this  
Church By Baptism: some that had been Excommunicated Restored  
Some from other Churches in the whole Addition of 87 Members  
Twenty two of which were set off as a Church in Buckland. and  
Six other of our member were Dismissed to help Build a

Church



Church in Conway which three Churches are in union  
and fellowship -- our Present Number 113 Members --

As to the Present View of Religious Affairs here. As you  
very justly observed, that by what you heard you had cause of  
Joy and Sorrow, the same Cause still remains. My dearest Brother  
and those that Left the Church with him, seem if possible to stand  
further from us than ever, and seem to be more opposed to the  
Reformation here, than the standing order, which is a great Grief  
to me and my Brethren: But we must part with all for Christ  
and his truth or we cannot be his Disciples: -- O can you drop a  
tear with me on such a fallen Star. and send a sigh to heaven for  
his rising again. But on the other hand we have Cause  
for ever to bless the Lord for his Goodness unto us, I never saw a  
Greater union amongst Brethren than at Present in this Church  
there does not appear to be so much falling away from the Life and  
Power of Practical Godliness as there was after the stir ~~some~~ year  
ago: and faiths, that flow of Joyfull sensation is abated with  
the young Converts, yet they seem in heart to enter the field of battle  
or spiritual warfare with a good degree of fortitude, and Establish-  
ment of mind to Press forward and not to turn back into the world  
and seem to strive hard to live the Religion we have Professed and  
to attain this valuable End the following Public means are used  
besides our stated worship on first days we have a Weekly Meeting  
for Religious worship and often by particular Desire one or two  
more. once a Month a Stated Conference when each Member is  
called upon to give a Relation of the state of their minds, once  
in two months we come to the Communion Table, besides exhort-  
ing one another daily and from house to house. -- and altho  
Meeting house is taken from us: yet we joyfully meet together  
in Private houses and often in the open field the house not being  
able to hold us -- the more we are despised by the world  
and the Ministers of our order for sake us. -- the more we love  
one another; O pray for us that Divine and Heavenly Love  
may encrease and abound. -- and altho it may be a  
Dark time with you -- be not Discouraged, Now I toil, watch  
and Pray a little longer and Jesus Comes: I do firmly  
believe Gods Delivance is Near -- We should rejoice  
if you <sup>could</sup> come and Visit us once before you go Home to Glog  
and impart unto us some spiritual Gift -- I beg the privilege  
of a correspondence with you by Letter tho I am very unwor-  
thy of such a Privilege. I am but a child and want Instruction  
Please to write to me by the Bearer of <sup>this</sup> Calvin Leonards --  
-- An Answer to the Question what man what of the Right  
Isai 21=11. would be very agreeable; that is the sursumption in  
which you viewd the Church to be in at this day and what the  
Lord is calling for? -- Suppose a Man should tell you  
"that a Church must satisfy All the Demands of their Ministers  
"as to outward support or else they do not receive him accord-  
"ing to Christs Directions: and that the Church have no right  
"to censure him be his Demands ever so Great: but if they  
"cannot possibly satisfy him must Dismiss him in fellowship  
-- What would be your Answer.....



Many are the Trials we pass through here  
and a few lines from your Experienced pen  
Perhaps may do Good — But I must take  
my leave for this time: Wishing the Best  
of Blessings to Rest upon you and your Family  
and the Flock of your Charge. — I beg your  
Prayers for me a poor undeserving sinner, pray  
for the Little Flock here. Pray much for  
Zion's Deliverance

Thine from one who is very unworthy  
to be your fellow Labourer  
in the Gospel Vineyard

Enos Smith

Apfeld March 6. 1790

Elder Isaac Backus

Sr.  
Middleborough

Eng<sup>s</sup> Smith  
Mar. 6. 1790.  
Rec<sup>d</sup>. Sept. 4.  
J. N.

1790



Sir

Alexr Augt 28<sup>th</sup> 1790

Waiting of an expected Opportunity to send you the within  
Lines - with Pleasure I take my pen to write a few more  
to send with them. - it has been a very sickly, Dying time  
here last spring. but much more Healthy now -  
- As to Religion in General Amongst us, it is much as it  
was when I wrote the within Letter, a Good Degree of Love  
and Union: Day before yesterday was our Communion before the  
Communion, 83 Members were present, all in union & love.  
Since the 6<sup>th</sup> of March last, I have baptiz'd Eight, and five  
has been Add'd to our Communion - - At Halifax and  
Guilford, State of Vermont, there has been a Great Revival of  
Religion this summer. Eliza Pelig Hicks who is pastor of a  
Baptist Church there. Inform'd me ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> in June he had baptiz'd  
better than fifty Persons (if I mistake not.) I have heard since  
that the Number has Encreas'd to Near 70 - At Chelmont  
the Spirit of the Lord has been at work of late Among a very  
traditional People call'd the Standing order, but now it appears  
with them to be the falling order. - Last week I was sent for  
to visit them - I found by their Information 40 persons had  
lately met with Comfort, but two found Strength to go forward  
in Baptism. a considerable Number more seem'd as it were  
to be hanging on the banks of Jordan, two other Elders have  
been there they I am inform'd have baptiz'd two more; there  
is a Prospect of a Church being Erected there in Gospel order.  
I hear from Benington: that there is a Great Stir among  
the People. the Particulars I have not heard -  
I believe the Lord is carrying on his work, & that it may  
be more and more Glorious: my Soul sometimes Longs  
for the Coming of Immanuel. - and I believe it is just at the  
Door. & that I might be ready - but I have reason to cry out  
with the Prophet. O my knees my knees, the Treacherous  
Dealers have Dealt very Treacherously. yet in the midst of  
all my sorrows I find that the Lord is Good, and in his Name  
will I trust. O that Blessed King on the Holy Hill of Zion that  
over rules all things for his own Glory. and the Good of  
them that trust in him. - I beg your Prayer for me and  
the little Flock here: that in the midst of all our Trials and Affl-  
ings Down. we may be enabled to walk according to Scripture  
Rule: we have no other Guide. - - - many Heavens  
Blessing Rest on you and yours. Whome I Love in the truth  
I rest yours in the Gospel. - - -

Enos Smith

Elmer Isaac Buckles

Middlebury

Enos Smith  
Aug. 28. 1790.  
Rec. Sept. 4.  
J. B.



Hon. Father in Christ

Affield Jan<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1791

I Received yours of Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> last, and thank you for the favor - and Rejoice in your welfare - I heartily agree with your ideas of the time of Night, that the Morning is near, and the Reasons you Assign are obvious, and many more that Night ~~may~~ <sup>might</sup> be mention'd are Signs of the Approaching Day. When there shall be a returning and Deserving between the Righteous and the wicked. Between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not, - you justly observe, that a due observation of the Laws of Jesus Christ: is what is now wanting - O that those blessed Laws might be attended to - But when he that is Like Refining fire, shall come with His fan in his hand. He will purge his floor - but who may abide the Day of his coming - for I Confess that when the Lord begins on his work, it is out of sight of Creatures. He comes in an unexpected way - <sup>so</sup> that even Christians if they are off their watch are in Danger of opposing the Lords work, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Something of this Nature I have seen: and Daily have to mourn too much of it in my own treacherous Heart, - but now and then a little view and foretaste of the Glorious Rest remaining for the People of God, makes me rejoice. - and with a measure of Patience to pass thro' these light Afflictions which are but for a moment. O what a blessed Matter we have to serve: that for a moment, sorrow here and that too sweeten'd with much Comfort, He gives Eternal Joy, without one bitter Pill - no sin shall be there. O Glorious never fading Bliss - and no sin; my soul dress after this -

For Information, we have recommend to you our Dear Brother and Sister whom we lately Received from you, the Loss of whose Company we Lament, having had sweet fellowships with them in the Gospel. Pray Receive them in the Lord, as our own souls -

A New Baptist Church Planted in Charlemont Nov<sup>r</sup> last Between 20. & 30 Members, they have no Pastor -

Dr. John Leland has been amongst us the fall Past, (from Virginia in Conway, Affield and Charlemont He Pent 31 days, Preach'd 31 Sermons, and Baptiz'd 31 persons - By his Preaching and Conversation he appear'd to stand in the Gospel, He gave some, in encouragement of. Removing to Conway. - I understand there is something of a revival of Religion at Plainfield a neighbouring Town to this, but I cannot give you any Particular account -

But I must conclude Begging a Continuance in your Prayers, - wishing Grace mercy and Peace to Rest upon you and the Zion of God, this from his Greatest Friend, Affield

P. S. the supposition in my former Letter concerning Ministers  
support was not taken from my brother, as by your  
Answer you supposed, but from one of the Ministers  
of the Council that justified <sup>him</sup>, which I have in writing  
by me to that effect, in a Laborious piece, in justification  
of that Result of Council — this I mention to clear  
my brother, & delight not in spreading his failings  
But Pray the Lord to forgive him, and all others  
of his Children that have gone astray —

E. S.

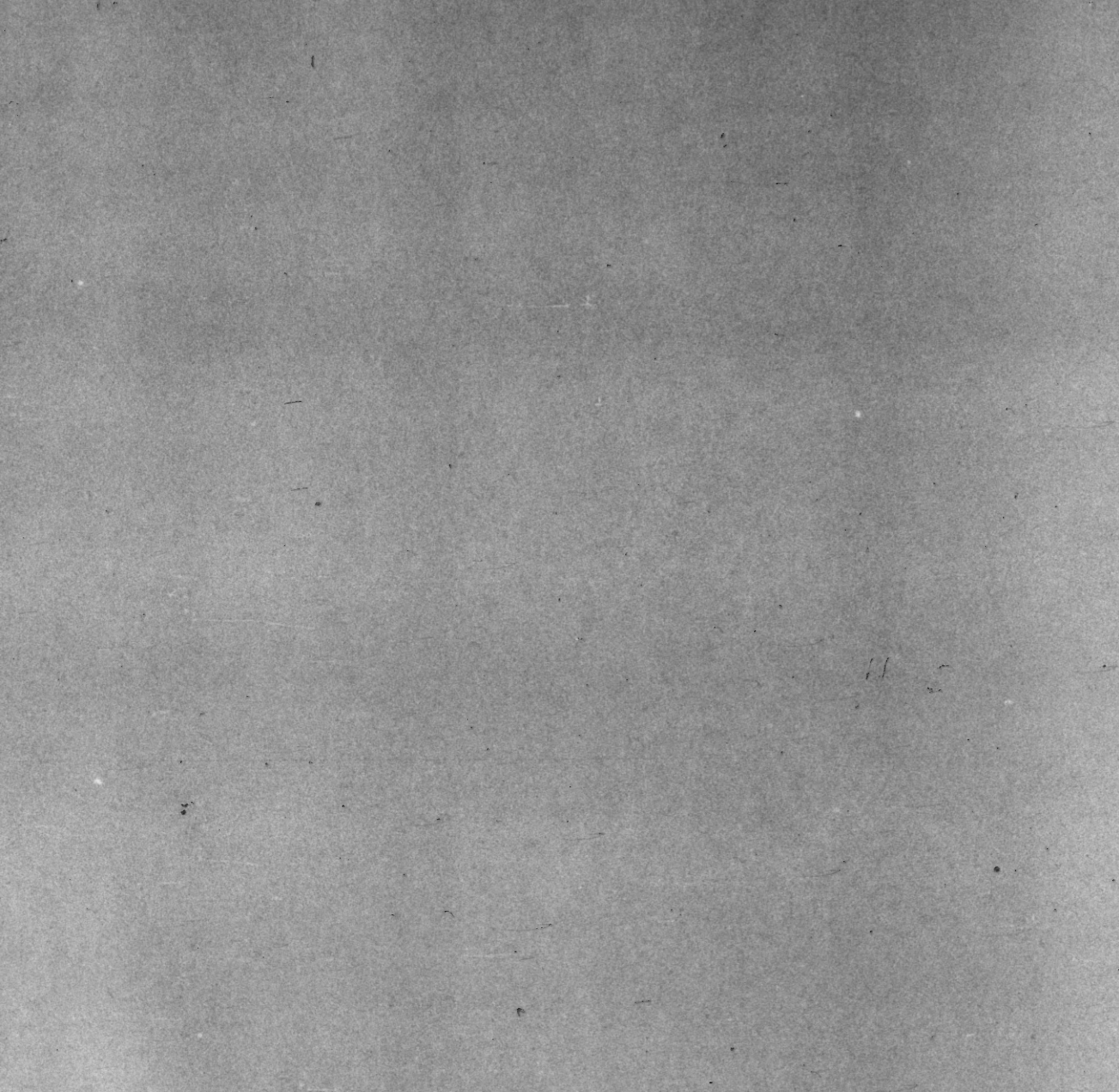
Enos Smith,  
Jan. 3. 1791.  
Rec. Jan. 16.  
J. B.

Received  
of the  
Council

Abraham  
Baker









Dear Brother

Leavethill. May 7. 30. 1774.

The Inclosed I procured this Morning  
in order to transmit to you, Those Distresses mentioned by Mr.  
Moody were after he professed himself a Baptist, tho' he was  
not immediately baptised upon openly declaring himself of  
our persuasion, I shall endeavour to get Mr. Inargi Ac. of  
his Expressions — Things are with us much as when I saw  
you in Boston. — I hope Heaven will smile upon your  
Undertaking. — From your Brother in of Gospel.

Her<sup>t</sup>. Smithy

Mr. Hez<sup>h</sup>. Smith  
Letter, May 30. 1774.

Recd. Aug. 24.  
D. B.



Dear Elder & Hon. Father in Zion. Ashfield Oct<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1797

Believing that your Aged Heart will rejoice to hear  
of the increase of our Glorious Emmanuel's Kingdom on  
Earth, I embrace the first opportunity to Communicate  
to you a few broken hints of the Marvellous work of God  
now carrying on amongst us, may it be to the Praise  
of that Name that is an ointment Poured forth upon  
Virgin Souls Do Love. whose Garments smell of Myrrh  
and is Cloathed in a Vesture dyed in Blood, whose Mighty  
Power and all Conquering Love causes the Stout-hearted to  
to fall before him - Blessed be the Name of our dear Lord  
Jesus that he has visited us in our Low Estate and caused  
our hearts Greatly to Rejoice, in the midst of all our Tribu-  
-lations, -- The work of Reformation begun in Buckland  
joining to this part of Ashfield a few persons seem'd to be wrought  
upon in their Minds in the Summer Season, in the latter part  
of August, a few persons that had been to an evening Meeting, come  
ing home late at Night, in a little village of houses where  
they were to part it was propos'd to pray before they parted  
they went in to a house and got a light and one of the Company  
went to prayer (about Midnight) he was so drawn out in <sup>prayer</sup> and  
his voice extended so loud he was heard in the Neighbouring  
Houses the Astonish'd inhabitants awaking from their slumbers  
leapt from their beds and run to see what was the matter!  
their Startled Conscience immediately Pointed themselves out  
the Guilty Sinners: a number that were the most rude and  
Profligate thus got their wound, and a few days after found  
Rest in Jesus was not this a Midnight Cry indeed: and now  
where before this was little heard but horse jockeying, card play-  
-ing and singing and Dancing: now praising singing Hymns and  
exhorting one another to a holy life, in the happy theme  
- from thence it spread Gradually along into Ashfield  
for about a Month past it has been very Powerfull in the midst  
of us, the Church of which I am the unworthy Pastor have  
almost universally felt its happy influence: Backsliders Return-  
-ing, Slumbering Saints awaking and all Confessing their  
faults one to another, I think I never saw it after this fashion  
we have Meetings almost every Day or night in the week - and  
sometimes cannot part till the night is almost spent, some  
a crying out under the terrors of the Law and a Guilty Con-  
-science, others a praising and adoring the wonders of Redem-  
-ing Love and inviting Sinners to come to the Soul cleansing  
Heart reviving fountain of a Saviours Blood; one Profligate

Deift



Deity who is now adorning and magnifying that Lovely  
Name Jesus, and the word of God whom he lately despised.  
O that Men would Praise the Lord for his Goodness and his  
wonderfull works to the Children of men -  
I am not able at present to Ascertain the number that  
have lately tasted of Redeeming Love, But seven have as  
yet come forward in Baptism, But I expect a goodly Num-  
ber will soon come forward in that Blessed Ordinance of  
our Dear Redeemer - Perhaps there may be near one  
Hundred in Attfield and its vicinity including Returning  
Prodigals that have lately drunk of that River that runs  
when of make. Glad the city of our God;

O thou Servant of the God of Abraham to whom  
I write Do thou Praise the Lord, and call upon all the  
Saints to Praise him, let all universal Nature Praise  
him. O Praise ye Blessed Angels, and Saints in light  
O that Sinners did but know his Goodness and his love  
and they would Praise him too.  
But I must conclude saying an Interest in your prayers  
and may the peace of God be with you and the Zion of  
God. I Rest yours in the Best of Bonds

Enos Smith

Rev. Isaac Backus  
to be Communicated

Enos Smith  
Oct. 15. 1797.  
Recd. Nov. 20.  
9. 8.

Nothing

Smith



Ernie Smith.  
Mar. 6. 1990.  
Rec. Sept. 4.  
J. B.

Eller  
Spae Backus  
Middleborough

Weyfield March 6.<sup>th</sup> 1790

Hon. Father in Zion

Doubtless these lines will put your Humility to a trial, and prove whether you are humble enough after all your correspondence with the great the wise & the Learned Christians, to freely accept of a letter from a poor weak Child. Having Confidence <sup>in</sup> that you are adorned with Condescension & humility, as well as other shining gifts & graces, I shall take the freedom & boldness to communicate some of my thoughts to you, hoping & desiring that this hand ~~may~~ never write any thing but what shall be for the glory of God. I know that 'tis of the Lords <sup>will</sup> that I can write, & I feel bound to improve this favour as well as all others in His service. — I had the privilege, (the most unworthy) of joining with the Baptist Church in this place some years ago, and I have passed thro' much sorrow, & much pleasure with them; great have been our trials, (of which I conclude you have had some account) But the Lord hath been a very present help in times of trouble; It seemed sometimes as if Earth & Hell, ~~and~~ Saints & Sinners were about to collect all their force to overthrow this Church: but we have <sup>found</sup> safe trusting in the Lord. He is stronger than all creatures. The Lord gave me a little strength to hope & trust in Him, while passing through clouds & thick darkness, and my hope hath not made me ashamed. I desire to call upon all the Saints & Angels in Heaven & Earth to praise the Lord for the wonders he hath wrought in this place. I can't write ~~about~~ about it: but I often look back upon what we have passed through, <sup>and</sup>



and upon what the Lord hath done, intill my Soul is  
filled with wonder & admiration, longing to praise  
the Lord in one eternal Song. Blessed be the Lord  
for trying the faith of His Children; This is an exceed-  
ing precious Mercy. The Lord is able to turn all af-  
flictions into favours, & to sweeten every sorrow with joy.  
I have found more consolation in suffering affliction  
with the people of God than all this world could  
afford me. Bless the Lord O my Soul & all that is  
within me bless His holy name. Truly there is a  
Friend that sticketh closer than a Brother. I believe  
it is safe trusting in God, tho all creatures should rise  
against us. When I take a view of what the  
blessed Jesus passed thro, I think it enough to still every  
murmuring thought. O that Innocent Lamb! what a  
pattern of patience & piety he was! He could stand  
tho all creatures forsook Him: And so can the weak  
est Lamb in His flock, if they will only trust in their  
good Shepherd. — Dear Sir I have often read  
your Books with pleasure, rejoicing that the Lord  
raised up such a bold witness for His truth; and my  
joy hath lately been renewed by hearing that you  
yet stand in the liberty of the gospel, and that you  
are not left (as I fear many others be) to pull down the  
truth which you once built up. Glory to God that  
He is pleased to keep any of His dear Servants in this  
day of trial. I hope then Sir that the Lord will  
bless you more & more, & make you an instrument  
of much more good to Zion. May your path shine  
brighter & brighter unto the perfect day. Pray Sir  
don't let your pen lie still as long as truth wants  
an Elder Mackus to vindicate its Cause

Hon<sup>d</sup> Sir

Ashfield Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 1790.

I received your letter dated Sept. 22. 1790. for which I desire to return my humble thanks. I well agree with the ideas contained therein ~~which~~ they appear to me like solid Truth. I desire Sir, that you would excuse my boldness in writing to you a gain, & that you would accept of a little pamphlet which I wrote for the satisfaction of my own mind, <sup>as</sup> I take such pleasure in writing upon religious subjects that I can't be contented without. I have sent this piece to you Sir, for two reasons, one is that you may be the better able to judge whether what we call the influence of the Spirit of God is "a Spirit of enthusiasm." Another reason is because I want to do all I can for the glory of God & the good of souls, & if you should think it agrees with truth, I don't know but that the Lord may bless it for <sup>the</sup> edification or comfort of some of your people. I know it is written in much weakness, but the Lord is able to bless the weakest means for some good. I esteem it a mercy from God that I can write, & I much desire to improve this blessing as well as all others to His glory. O that I could ever know & do the will of God! I find myself to be a poor helpless sinner. But sometimes I can rejoice in a glorious Saviour. I wish I could spend each remaining <sup>ing</sup> moment of my life to His glory: but I find that though I would do good, evil is present with me. I find I can do nothing good, without some assistance from the Spirit of Christ. All good comes only from God. It



I hear that it is a dark dull time in Middleborough.  
but let not that discourage none of the mourning  
Saints. I hope the Lord will suddenly appear for your  
help & turn your sighs & groans into songs of praise.  
The Sun was before last, it looked to outward appearance  
as dark as midnight in this place, but the Lord suddenly  
appeared (according to the earnest desires that He had  
put into many hearts) & the Mountains flowed down  
at His presence, & he hath not forsaken us yet, &  
I trust He never will. Glory to God for all His  
mercies to the most unworthy of His creatures. Not  
unto us, but to the Lord belongs all the praise.

My Hon<sup>d</sup>. Father sends his sincere love to his  
Dear friend Elder Barkers. Rejoices to hear of  
the steadfastness of your faith, Desires to be remem-  
bered in your prayers. He has had much mourning  
for the ~~falling~~ of his eldest Son, but the Lord has  
been his Comforter, he desires you would bless the  
Lord for raising up his youngest Son in the room  
of the other, & making him a great blessing &  
Comfort not only to his aged father, but to the flock  
of Christ here. This is the Lord's doings. Let Him  
have all the thanks.

Last Dec<sup>r</sup> my hon<sup>d</sup>. Mother went rejoicing out of  
this evil, world to her everlasting home. Father  
& I are left in the family alone. pray that we  
may be prepared to go also.

I hope dear Sir that the Lord will make you faithful  
until your work shall be all well done, & you  
shall be received into the Regions of glory to receive  
the full reward of all your Labours of love to revive  
the Saints on earth. There I hope thro' free grace you  
may also meet this unworthy Sinner Euniel Smith.

It is a time of union with the Church here, and  
Sometimes we are refreshed with some drops from that  
River, whose Streams make glad the City of God.  
My W<sup>or</sup>th<sup>y</sup> Father sends his love to you: he is in  
health. Last Spring it lay heavy on his mind to go  
a 100 miles up the Country to a place called  
White-Hall, (formerly Sharnborough) to see his Daugh-  
ter & her family there: but more especially to  
labour amongst the <sup>people</sup> in spiritual matters. He went  
last May and found amongst the people there,  
some mourning Christians, who had joined in covenant  
as a Baptist Church: but were now so scattered  
that they had no meetings, except some preachers  
came from abroad: he stayed there near a month  
labouring with them in public & private: he  
found a hearing ear among Saints & Sinners,  
he came home, & in August went again, and  
found to his great joy that they had continued  
those meetings ever since he was there before,  
and that the Lord had begun to send His  
Spirit down with power: now they meet  
not only Sundays but Thursdays, & evenings  
besides. He stayed there now a month and  
saw the wonderful works of the Lord. Sinners  
as crying out in distress for their souls, Backslid-  
ers confessing, & some a Beginning to sing the new  
Song of praise to God for His redeeming love. Father  
came home mightily refreshed, desiring all to help  
him praise God for the wonders He had wrought  
O how desiring it is to hear souls coming to  
our glorious King!



My Brother Enos says he intended to  
have written<sup>to</sup> you Sir, the first oppor-  
tunity: but having so short notice  
of this, and his calls being such  
he can't write now; but intends  
to embrace the first opportunity  
that he can.

Though I count myself unworthy  
of the least of your notice, yet  
I desire an interest in your prayers,  
that I may be delivered from sin  
and live a holy life.

Dear Sir will you allow me to  
subscribe myself your unworthy  
Sister in the best of bonds?

N. B.

Eunice Smith

I haven't had the privilege of reading Older Mackay's late  
Book. I wish I could see it.

Lewis Smith.

Oct. 20. 1490.

Dec. Nov. 8.

J. 12.

136 wgt. 1700g.

50

Elder Isaac Backus

Middleborough



Powhatan County. State of Virginia March 15. 1797

Dear Bro.

As so favourable an opportunity offers thro  
the channel of Bro. Wain I gladly embrace it to send  
you a few thoughts respecting the times in Virginia.  
Certain I am it is the wish and desire of  
every true Christian, to see the downfall of Sin, &  
the increase of true piety and godliness in the World  
but more especially in the part where the Lord has  
left there Lot. but altho this is the desire of all Gods  
people I conceive it to be much more so with those  
whom he has sent forth to preach his Word. I have  
no doubt but it would rejoice the heart of Old  
Daddy Backus to hear from Virginia that the Lord  
was carrying on his work there, happy should I be  
to communicate such blessed News to you, but Oh  
the reverse is painful, I can truly say Iniquity does  
much abound at present, I think there never was so  
general a deadness in matters of Religion since the first  
great Revival (about thirty years ago) as there appears  
at present, as for the ungodly they grow more hardened  
in their wickedness every day, Tho. Sains Age of Reason  
is now become their Bible it is enough to make  
one shudder to hear with what boldness they blas-  
pheme even the very Children appear to hetch it from  
their Parents & some are bold enough to say it is  
all the Bible their Children shall make use of,  
will not God be revenged on such a nation as this  
may we oft expect a visitation and that in dreadful  
Anger, I am convince, that nothing but a reformation  
and Repentance for past offenses can prevent it. pray  
for us if you can get an Heart to do it. but many  
times I am made to for the Lord has said of us







As he did of Ephraim, he is joined to his Idols let him  
alone. I have heard a pleasing account from Kentucky  
of a smart revival in some of the Churches, considerable  
additions have been made — Happy would a number  
of the Lords people be could they see Daddy Backus in  
this part of the World once more, I am certain it would  
rejoice my Heart to see & hear from so Old a Servant  
and Soldier of Jesus Christ the Saviours Merits proclaim  
in Preaching his blessed Gospel — but I cannot expect it  
I expect it would be too great a fatigue for a man  
of your Years to undertake, I hope the Lord may con-  
tinue to Bless you as he hath hitherto done & make  
you still a blessing to his People & especially to the  
Church in which you labour, so that when your warfare  
is at an end you may be taken from the Church.  
Millitant to join the Church Triumphant above,  
in the mean time I trust I shall share an in-  
terest in your petitions at the Throne of Grace that  
in these times of trial the Lord may uphold, sup-  
port & strengthen one, Oh Bro. when I view myself  
what good can I see (nothing) a poor miserable vile  
sinfull wretch, GOD so good to me & I so unworthy  
of his favour, Oh could my soul be continually  
bowed down at his footstool, pray for me Bro.  
that I may preach as well by example as precept  
that I may view myself at all times as clay in  
the potters hand, that I may be a vessel fitted for the  
masters use &c. I trust you will receive this  
as a token of my sincere love and affection altho my  
thoughts are so confusedly run, down, (I am a poor Scribe)  
I should opportuntly offer a letter from you  
would be thankfully received by  
your loving the very unworthy  
of Bro. in the Gospel of Christ  
George Smith

Mr. James of  
Mr. Mason

Mr. John Bachus

Middleborough

State of Massachusetts

Answer  
July 8. 1797.

George Smith  
Mar. 15. 1797  
Rec. June 28.  
J. B.









Camp, Snake Hill, Nov. 9. 1779

Dear Brother,

Your very acceptable Favours of the  
20<sup>th</sup> Ult. come safe to hand this Day, for which you  
have my sincere Thanks - That most agreeable  
Intelligence, <sup>contained in y<sup>r</sup> Letter</sup> cannot fail of exciting Gratitude  
to every Believer of Lions, to hear of a revival  
of Religion in this Day of Trouble & Darknes.  
is as a reviving Cordial to y<sup>r</sup> Soul - I would  
not be found guilty of envying y<sup>r</sup> Happiness of  
any; but I can assure you, y<sup>r</sup> Minister who is  
blessed in his Work & Soul, in the Manner  
mentioned in your Letter, must be y<sup>r</sup> happy  
Man, whilst others mourn y<sup>r</sup> Absence of y<sup>r</sup> divine  
Presence, and bewail their own Barrenness and  
Uselessness. For some Years, I have wished & prayed  
for a similar Work, amongst y<sup>r</sup> brave Men, who are  
hazarding their Lives for y<sup>r</sup> Liberties of our Land,  
but alas notwithstanding, praying, preaching and  
conversing with them and Family abound in our Army to that

I hope the good work begun in Middleborough will long continue  
and spread far - How good is it to be where the Lord is at work;  
how easy is it to preach, pray and converse, when the soul is  
quickened with fresh anointings of the Holy Ghost - Mr. Atkinson  
by letter informs me you had an agreeable separation last Sept.  
blessed be the Lord for it. - How happy shall I be, if I could  
possibly pay you a visit now: but cannot promise myself  
such a season, whilst I am connected with my Army. -

Dear

M. S.

Her. Smith's  
Letter, Nov. 12. 1779

Recd. in Boston  
June 9. 1780

J. B

Middleborough

Rev. John Jackson



Flowerhill Oct. 7. 28. 1774.

Dear Sir

Enclosed I have sent you an list of several Baptist Churches, which don't belong to our Association. The Baptist Church at Gosham was constituted 7. 20. of June 1768 which <sup>then</sup> consisted of 18 Members — The Bap. Chh. in Barwick was constituted June 7. 28. 1768. The Number of Members, then 7. — The Bap. Chh. at Dearfield was constituted of 14 Members the 14. of June 1770. — The Bap. Chh. of Strattem was constituted July 7. 18. 1770. consisting of 12 Members. The Bap. Chh. in Brintwood was constituted of 13 Members May 7. 2. 1771. — The Bap. Church in Nottingham when constituted in May 7. 3. 1771. consisted of 16 Members. — Sanford Church which was constituted Sep. 1. 1772 now consists of 35 Members. — Lebanon Chh. which was constituted Aug. 1774 has 18 Members in it — Also I have sent you our Subscription for yr. Baptist History of New England, am sorry that I could procure no more. — Likewise some account of Mr. Emory's Sufferings &c. He has given yr. Matter of them, but desires you to prepare it for yr. Press, by attesting yr. Fiction & giving those Matters of <sup>fact</sup> a fair Representation to the World; which I told him, he might depend upon, would be done, I think his Sufferings will make no inconsiderable Figure in your History if properly represented. I have been to Salem, and made Application for Mr. Rogers Williams's Excommunication: but could not get the least Intelligence in yr. Affairs. Mr. Barnard yr. Asst. Minister of yr. Chh. where Roger Williams, belonged, told me that from the Year 1628 to 1660, there is a Chasem. of Church Records and scarcely any thing to be found, only Records of Baptism, Also that about 1660 a Committee was chosen to examine yr. Records who found them much defaced & taken with Notes & Misc and some Family Reflections so yr. upon yr. whole, they concluded to destroy them. And he supposed yr. Roger Williams, might be one, upon whom Reflections were cast yr. amount of which with others were destroyed. I should be very glad to hear what you did when you went to Philadelphia. Nothing extraordinary amongst us in Mass from your Brother in yr. Ministry. Joseph Smith

812

Rec'd Nov. 30.

Wm. of Dr. Church

Oct 28. 1874

Nov. 20. 1874



New York (N.Y.) Sept. 1806.

Honorable and Rev. Sir,

The enclosed Two, from  
Eld. Leland, I hoped to have had the pleasure of  
presenting ~~to~~ to you in person; but my health  
failing me, I take this method to communicate.

As I shall be on my way to Virginia,  
in Nov. if you would convey the materials  
to Mr. Parkman, in New York, by the first of  
that month, I will then be responsible to  
see they are conveyed to Mr. Semple.

God, Sir, favors the brethren of Virginia,  
with such materials for their history if it  
can be completed, as they are desirous of  
enriching the history with all the important  
occurrences which have transpired in that  
State.

I have only to add, that God is  
kind in preserving health and con-  
tinuing life... that the interview is  
sweet which I enjoy with the brethren  
from the distant parts of Zion.  
May he be your support, aged  
Sir, till the expiring tapers of life shall be  
lost in the blaze of an eternal day.  
Your brother in the G. B.

Samuel

Rev. J. Mac. Arthur.

Walden  
Massachusetts



Belov'd Elder and Brethren Having by the Providence of <sup>x</sup> God  
my Lot Cast amongst the People in Westmoreland and having  
gained so far a Satisfaction of Christs having a Church  
gathered here and is about to send us a watchman, that I  
can with freedom Join this Church; if you can Dismiss me  
in fellowship of the gospel. Desiring all your Prayers for me  
that I may Live agreeable to my Profession  
Wishing Grace mercy and Love may be multiplyed among you  
So I Rest your unworthy Brother Daniel Snow

Keen, Nov<sup>m</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1773

Belov'd Elder and Sister with your Children; I with my  
other Self Remembers our Love and most greatfull Respects  
hoping these Lines will find you in good health we are so at present  
through the Blessing of God  
Elder Jacobs was with us Sabothday before Last, and preach<sup>t</sup> in  
the fore noon and Mr Baley in the afternoon and the Elder was well  
pleas'd with him and he baptiz'd David Brittin and Administered  
the Supper Elizabeth Leach offer'd her Self but was not Reciv'd  
I hope we shall see you here at the ordination and if you cant Come  
Send me a Letter if you Can So I Rest your unworthy Brother  
Daniel Snow

Recd. Nov. 13.  
9. 73

David Snow letter  
Nov. 6. 1773.

To Mr  
Isaac Backus  
in,  
Middleborough



Heen, Sept. 10. 1774.

Rev. and Dear Brother, and Sister, we Remember our Love  
and Respects to your Selves and Children: gladly Receiving a Line  
from you this morning: we are all well as Common: which is owing  
to Divine Goodness. I Remember my Love to my Dear Brethren  
and Sisters in our Dear Lord, wishing his Blessing on them: and  
that they would Remember the Cause of God here in the wilder-  
ness. God has wrought wonders for us whereof we are glad, and  
would give him Praise: But trials have been heavy, we Approach  
Brother, w<sup>h</sup> is the Cause of the Difficulties in the Church God only  
knows whether he will Ever walk with the Church again, much might  
be said But I forbear, I Long to See you Dear Elder, and my Brethren  
God only Knows when if Ever. Elder Bale has Baptized  
nine among us one was David Stordard's wife of Chesterfield Besides  
a number from home: he Faith 13.  
I have got the pay for but four Booke  
and have not the money to Send you

So I Rest your unworthy Brother in Jesus Christ our Lord  
Saying this Brethren Pray for us. I trust we shall for you  
that you and we may Learn some Instruction by the Word  
of God Read over New England.  
So we subscribe our Selves in Dear Bonds

Daniel Snow  
Abigail Snow

Lucia Snow Sends her Love  
to Lucia Bachus

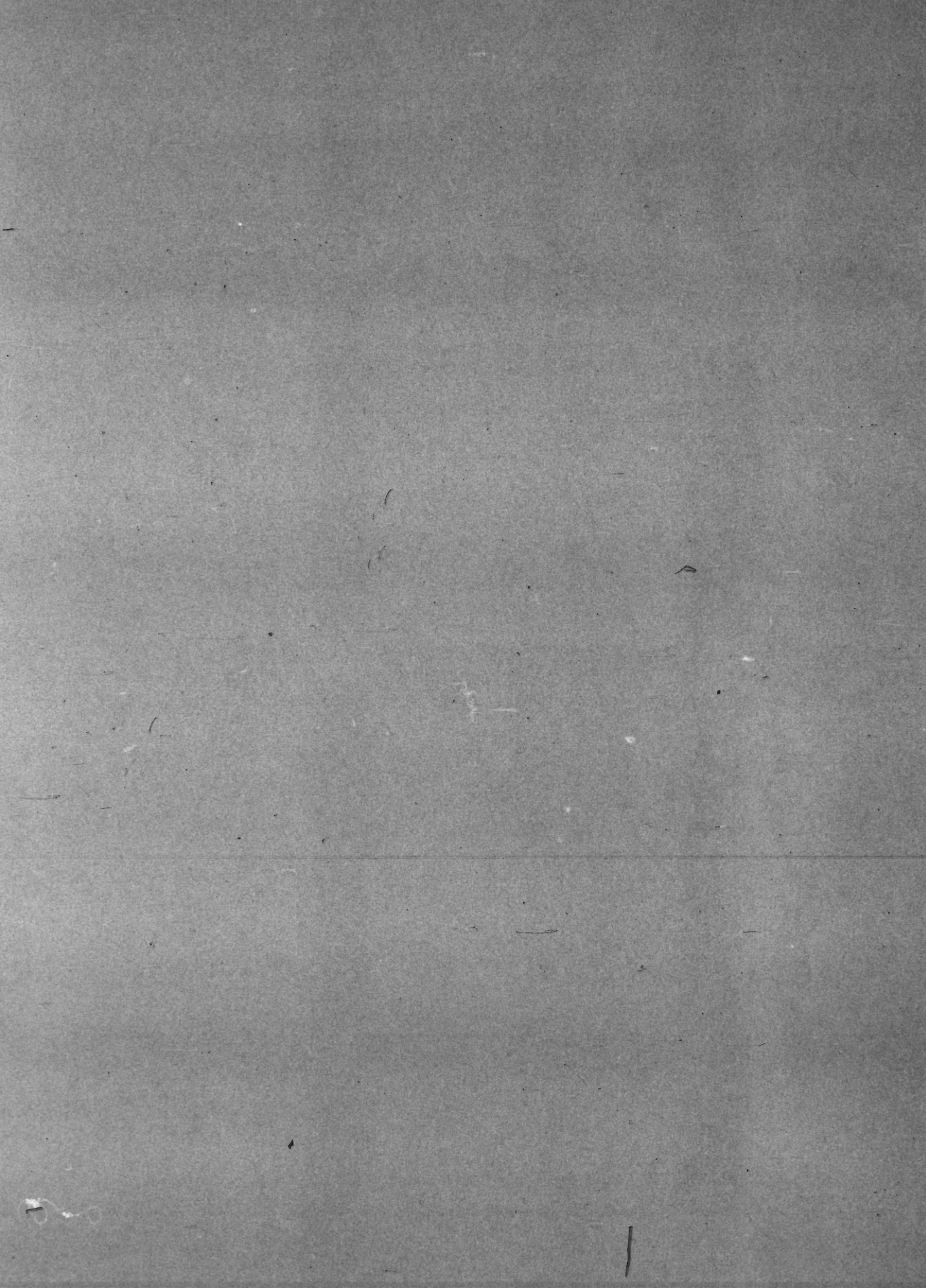
Jan<sup>r</sup>. Snows  
letter 1774

Rec<sup>d</sup>. Sept. 13.

L. B.

To  
Mr Isaac Backus  
in Middleborough









Keen October 4<sup>th</sup> 1779

Reverant and Dear Brother having a few minits  
to Rite to you that we are well <sup>as common</sup> through Divine Goodness  
hoping these Lines may find you and yours so I Send my hearty  
and I trust my true Love to you & your family. I Confess my  
Neglect in <sup>not</sup> Riting to you. Some times for want of a opportunity  
and Sometimes through insufficiency: yet I Attempt it  
I Long to See you to tell you my trials and to be Admonished  
to what is Duty in the presant Case, and not Embrace Errors  
if it might please the Lord to Send you <sup>a hearty</sup> I Should be glad to See you  
there is many things I want to Say but I must forbear and  
Leave it to Brother Wilbore to tell you the Particulars  
we have had 4 Elders to Set at a Church meeting Namely  
Elder Jacobs: Elder Belue: Elder Cedoret: & Elder Simons  
and they voted with Part of the Church Satisfaction  
with the Elder Bailey, and he still holds in principle  
much as he did: these things have much tried my mind  
Elder Bailey Never has made any Confession of Rong  
the Elders told him he must take back his Saying mens  
Being Proper Devils: & he said Take it Back and he said  
he had Delivered that was not according to Sound Doctrin  
Doctring yet he is Set up as a true minister, if he is so  
I Should be glad to Know it. I find I need Counfel, ~~and~~  
in this importante Affair. So I Dismiss this head  
as to my self I am Same in princibel as when with  
your Church, and alltho my mind has been tried it has  
been a means to Clear my Sight, for which Efect  
I Bless God and there Rest the Case

my wife Desires to be Remembered to you all  
So I Rest your unworthy Brother Daniel Snow



Don. Snow  
Rt. Oct. 1. 1779.

To

Elder  
Isaac Baekus  
Living in  
Middleborough



Dear Brethren in the gospel:

Keen August ye 23: 1773.

I Rec<sup>d</sup> your Letter yesterday with great Satisfaction  
these Lines Come with my Love & highest Respects to you and your family  
and to my Brethren in the gospel wishing grace mercy and peace to be  
multiplied: we through divine goodness are in Comon Health  
I Rec<sup>d</sup> them Books but have Dispos<sup>d</sup> of but 2. I Rejoyce to hear of the work  
of God in your parts: and I will give you a short Account of the work of God  
among us. ~~Ze~~phaniah Leach & Azariah: give Satisfaction of a Change besides  
Several others: there has been 50 persons Baptized by Elder Jacobs since Last  
April: and my wife by Elder Hunt yesterday: to great Comfort to me  
for which we Desire you to Join with us to Bless God: and Desire your  
Prayers for us that we may walk agreeable to the gospel  
Mr. Ebon<sup>z</sup> Balce of Endeavor of Chimsford Church has paid us 2 visits and has  
preach<sup>d</sup> to great ~~great~~ Satisfaction to which the Church has given him a Call:  
my wife Desires to be Remembered to you all —  
there is Some Difficulties Still Remain<sup>ing</sup> But I hope in God they will be Remov<sup>d</sup>  
if my Brethren Can Dismiss me to this our Sister Church in gospel Love and  
fellowship: I Should be glad to Join with the Baptist Church in westmoland  
if you Should have any opportunity to send one to me: perhaps by Brother Benj<sup>n</sup> Leach  
we would be Remembered to Brother Joshua Jobes's family  
Especially to Brother Daniel Jokes and tel him to Right to me if he Can  
we Rest yours in Gospel Bonds

Daniel Snow  
Abigail Snow

Daniel Snow's Letter  
Aug. 23. 1773.

Recd. Sep. 4.  
1773.

Mr Isaac Backus  
Do  
in Middleborough



Keene April 13<sup>th</sup> 1788

Having this opportunity to write to you Dearly Belov'd Elder  
though absent in body get present in mind I hope these Lines will  
find you and yours in good health as we are through Divine  
goodness: Dear Brother I wish you Prosperity in the gospel  
of our Blessed Redeemer who gave up his Life a Ransom for many  
there is a great deal said about Christ's suffering that it was from  
the hands of wicked men and that God the Father laid on no punishment  
upon his Belov'd Son when it is said it pleases the father to bruise him &c  
perhaps you will be glad to know how my mind is. as to the Sentement of my  
mind it is much the same as when I was with you I Believe we did Profess the  
true Gospel and all the there is backrest on my mind and that, is not with me  
as in months past yet I Desire to bless God for his goodness in upholding me  
from making Shiprah of faith and Drawn away by these delusions that many  
have: my Desire is that God's work may be Revived and I can look forth as the  
morning: I should Receive it as a favour if you would write to me your  
mind as to these things and how Religion is with your people and whether any  
of your brethren have Died lately  
and to Sister Backus I Remember my Love and Christian fellowships  
and that you still abide in the faith of the gospel and be a mother in Israel  
and Strengthen and Incourage the Elder in this work &c  
my wife Remembers her Love to Elder and Sister  
and we Remember our Respects to all your Children  
I Rest your unworthy Brother — Daniel Snow

Daniel Snow.

Apr. 13. 1788

Rec. May. 18.

J. W.

Mr

To

Isaac Backus

in  
middleborough

~~Isaac Backus~~  
~~middleborough~~  
~~May 18 1788~~



Keene July th 29: 1786

Beloved Elders not hearing from you for a long season & for the  
Regards I have for you by former acquaintance and for the fellowship in  
the gospel of Christ I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you hoping  
they will find you well as we are at present through divine goodness  
I would inform you that our friends are all well and that it is a general  
time of health among us  
and I would inform you as to the matters of religion that it is a very  
trying time among us: though providence has so ordered it that we are two  
Churches and in fellowship with sister Churches ~~and in~~ and as to our  
elves we have peace among us but elder baglys Chh part has withdrawn  
by reason of what he has preached of late for he says that Christ doth not  
Love sinners and that it was not out of love to sinners that Christ  
Came into the world and as to the suffering of Christ he says that Christ  
never suffered nothing only from wicked men and devils and that he never  
suffered nothing justly and many other thing like unto them  
but the way is strait still and it often makes me think of one of your books  
whose title is truth is grate ~~and~~ and will prevail and it is matter of <sup>need</sup> inquiring  
to all who love Zion prosperity that Christ is engaged in the behalf of all  
his true follower and o what a friend have we to go to one that remembers  
us under all our trials and in all our affliction and one that is a sutable  
favor to our necessities and o that we might look unto him for that refreshment  
which is first pure then peaceable and o that God <sup>would</sup> of his infinite  
mercy grant a display of his power and glory and that his truth may shine in  
such a lustrous manner as may overpower all these ~~for~~ false  
principles which are so prevailing in our land  
pray give my respects to your wife and family and all inquiring  
friends

father remembers his Love to you and your family and he would let you  
that he stands in his mind the same as he all ways did and he <sup>knows</sup>  
meanes to bare testimony against all these false principles and he  
would be glad if you would send him a letter and send your mind in  
regard to these things

mother sends all hearty love to your wife and would be very glad  
to see her and likewise sends her love to all your family and to  
all inquiring friends

and pray elder remembers us under all our trials and afflictions  
and that we may strive together in ours prayers which is the desire  
of your friend and one who Loves Zion prosperity

Hosea Snow

Mr. C. J. O.  
Isaac Perkins  
in  
Middleborough

Hezekiah Snow's  
Letter July 29. 1786.

Recd. Aug.

J. O.



Willington August 29 - 1785 -

Beloved Brother and Partner in the Gospel  
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ having  
this opportunity to right a Line I would  
let you no there is a unhappy difficulty  
among us for which I would beg your  
Prays for us that it may be healed and  
settled in a right manner God willing  
Brother Bolton is able to give you a  
full account on both sides: upon his  
so doing I would be glad you would right me  
a Line of your Mind & advise on things  
So wishing Grace mercy & peace to be multiplied  
among you: I remain your unworthy  
Brother  
William Frou

2<sup>nd</sup>. Volume etc  
Aug. 29. 1785.

To  
Edw. Buehner  
Middlebury









North Kingston June 23. 1784

Brother Bunker, after my kind love to you wishing  
Happiness to attend your personal labors and  
family <sup>and</sup> these I send, I let you know that the  
Reason of my not waiting at home according to our  
agreement is that Brother Shuck, who was  
in his journey homeward and was posted to  
at Newark and had a desire of my company  
where upon I see duty for to go with him  
where upon inquiry at Elder Denie's you may  
find where we are - But whether you  
find me or not I have had conviction that  
I was going in introducing the Agents  
at Medford that I performed with -  
your former conduct, and all the I did  
not see it then yet I have been grieved  
for its sake, and pray your forgiveness -  
Oh Brother I am a poor imperfect creature  
pray God forgive us all and ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> life,  
your souls from all these trials and temptations  
that come for good from your in heart in  
the bonds of the Gospel the unworthy

David Sprague,

David Sprague  
letter June 8. 1954.

This has some reference  
to transactions in I Confer<sup>re</sup>  
at Norington May 29, 1954  
of D. B. Sprague was  
made - I rec. it June 4.

J. Banks



hamilton I sent to Mr. Toward the 22 1805  
honored Sir my dear respects to you hoping these  
lines will find <sup>you</sup> in joying the blessing of health as  
they love me throw the goodness of god Sir as I  
am now settled where I am of you and the Brothers  
and Sisters of your Church can feel a freedom to  
grant me and my wife a letter of Desmission  
we will be thankful thir for if you grant our  
request Sir the Church we wold be glad to join  
with is the first Church in the town of hamilton  
in the County of Senan in State newyork this  
letter goes by the hand of Mr. Seth Snow he will be  
in Bridgewater two or three weeks and if you can  
send on by Mr. Snow well as not send by post  
Subscribe to me as follows to miles Standish  
in the I sent town of hamilton in the County of  
the post ofes in hamilton County of Senan State  
of newyork the present <sup>State</sup> of the hamilton Church  
in which we are with Confesses of 75 members  
in the same path and order as your Church  
the greater part of the vulgar Societies are ~~Bapt~~  
Baptes our as a sheon fore yeares ago ther  
wore about three hundred <sup>members</sup> and now thir  
is near three thousand so wonderfull is the  
goodness of our god and it is marvelous in  
our eyes now I subscribe my self  
your onpained friend Miles Standish

x Chenango.

To the Reverend  
J. Lick Backus in  
andelbrough  
by the hand of  
Mr Seth Snow

Answered Mar. 2. 1805.

M. L. S. Standish.  
Jan. 22. 1805.  
Rev. Mar. 1. —  
8. 93.



To Elder Backus and the Church, beloved in the Lord.

This may acquaint you that we determined by the will of God, to come down to the Association, But it pleased God on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August to lay my Comfort on a bed of Sickness, which has continued very severe ever since, & according to the common course of things must necessarily continue <sup>some</sup> time longer; but how long, He only knows who wounds & heals, who kills & makes alive, which (grievous disappointment) has prevented our coming.

Dear<sup>ly</sup> beloved Brethren <sup>& Sisters</sup> pray for us, that God would remove this sore affliction and restore Health, if he in his infinite Wisdom see fit; causing this as well as all other afflictions to yield unto us the peaceable fruits of Righteousness; But if He in his all-wise Providence has otherwise determined, pray that our wills may be swallowed up in the divine will, wheather in Sickness or Health, in Life, or in Death, that we might not murmur or repine at the Providences of God, but be enabled by him to bear all the Burdens he shall think fit to lay upon us.

And further,

acquainting you that the rest of <sup>the</sup> Family are in a comfortable State of Health thro' Gods divine goodness and protection, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves your beloved

Brother & Sister in the  
Lord.

Amos Stanley

Anna Stanley

Alleboro: September 7<sup>th</sup> 1772

1  
To  
Isaac Backus  
Pastor of 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist  
Church of Christ  
in  
Middleborough

Amos & Anna  
Stanhys letter  
Sept. 4. 1772.

Recd. Sep. 9.  
J. B.



Honoured father in the Lord  
I received your Letter dated June 19  
and read it with grate Delight & fresh  
joy as the news I had to right before  
but I trust Dear Elder as you are an  
old traveler that you have learned in some  
measure with the psalmist to sing of  
judgment as well as mercy I often think  
of the question that your kind Mother  
asked in some special manifestations what  
Whisper trial is before me  
I used to think I could not rejoice  
without I had some grate manifestations  
of gods Love to my soul ~~by~~ but I think  
now at times that I can rejoice in Gods  
prosperity ~~when~~ <sup>as</sup> at the same time I  
feel he kind all  
the state of religion seems to be  
some what low amongst us at present  
but notwithstanding some of us seems to  
be Drunkeny others seems to be awake Long  
the last Lords Day was a comfortable Day to some

Seriel of our young Conuarts in this  
place both male and female after Sermon  
rose up and addressed the assembly as I trust  
by the Spirit of the Lord which made  
my heart to rejoice

Dear Eliza I Long to See you and your Dear  
wife. but I am all most out of hopes  
of seeing you in this life I had such  
Desires Last Summer to come and see you  
that I asked my Husband if his  
God ever led him to travel in them,  
hoping if so I might go with him  
but he viewing the Call vastly  
more extensive east then westward  
that he gave me no encouragement  
notwithstanding he would be exceeding glad  
to see you I do not know but he will  
write to you if a multitude of business  
does not prevent he is not at home  
now but I expect him soon  
we are all in good both of body and  
have a comfortable Living altho our Church



if poor yet they are blessed with  
a Liberal spirit  
pleas to write again if it will not be  
too much trouble your advice & praise  
we need tho we have many instructors  
yet we have not my fathers  
these from an unworthy Chile  
C. W. Stinson

May 17 1800

Bowdoin April <sup>the</sup> 16 1799

Dear Sir  
altho I am a child in understanding  
yet I have undertaken to write to  
you ~~whome~~ I <sup>as</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> a father in  
gospel bonds and as you are a friend  
to Zion I trust it will delight you  
to hear of her prosperity there has  
been a wonderful out pouring of Gods Spirit  
in these parts this winter more especially  
among the youth there are as many as  
25 joined this Church this winter that are  
not more than 20 years of age and  
one little boy who was but nine  
I believe there is not one house  
within as much as 7 or 8 miles but  
what the Lord has taken some out of place  
every family and one family in this  
who but a few years ago were in open  
opposition to the cause but ~~seven~~ <sup>out</sup> eleven  
have openly professed to know Jesus Christ  
and the power of his resurrection in  
there souls one of which was Baptized the  
last Lords day and while by the water side



Received June 26. 1801.

Atch. Stinson  
May 19. 1800

Recd. Sept. 19. —  
J. D. B.

Doac Backus  
Middleborough

Edo

Dear Mother

Dear Mother

1233  
118  
1351



The power of the Lord Came down  
Like the rushing of a mighty wind  
one young woman was so struck with  
a sense of her duty that she could not  
stand on her feet the people seeing  
her fall <sup>thought</sup> she was faint but she  
said no: all her relations were  
in such opposition to the baptist that  
she had never said any thing openly  
about religion. She went back to the  
in the afternoon and instead of a  
sermon she told her experience and  
two more who were baptized the same  
day we were concluding the reformation  
was almost over in this place but we  
find the Lord has not forsaken the place  
blessed be his name he is still  
giving us a taste of his love  
give my kind ~~the~~ respects to your wife  
and family these from your sincere  
friend and well wisher in Christ's cause  
please to sign the first  
opportunity & long to know  
how the state of religion  
is in your parts

Abiah Stinson

Abiel Thayer,

April 15. 1799

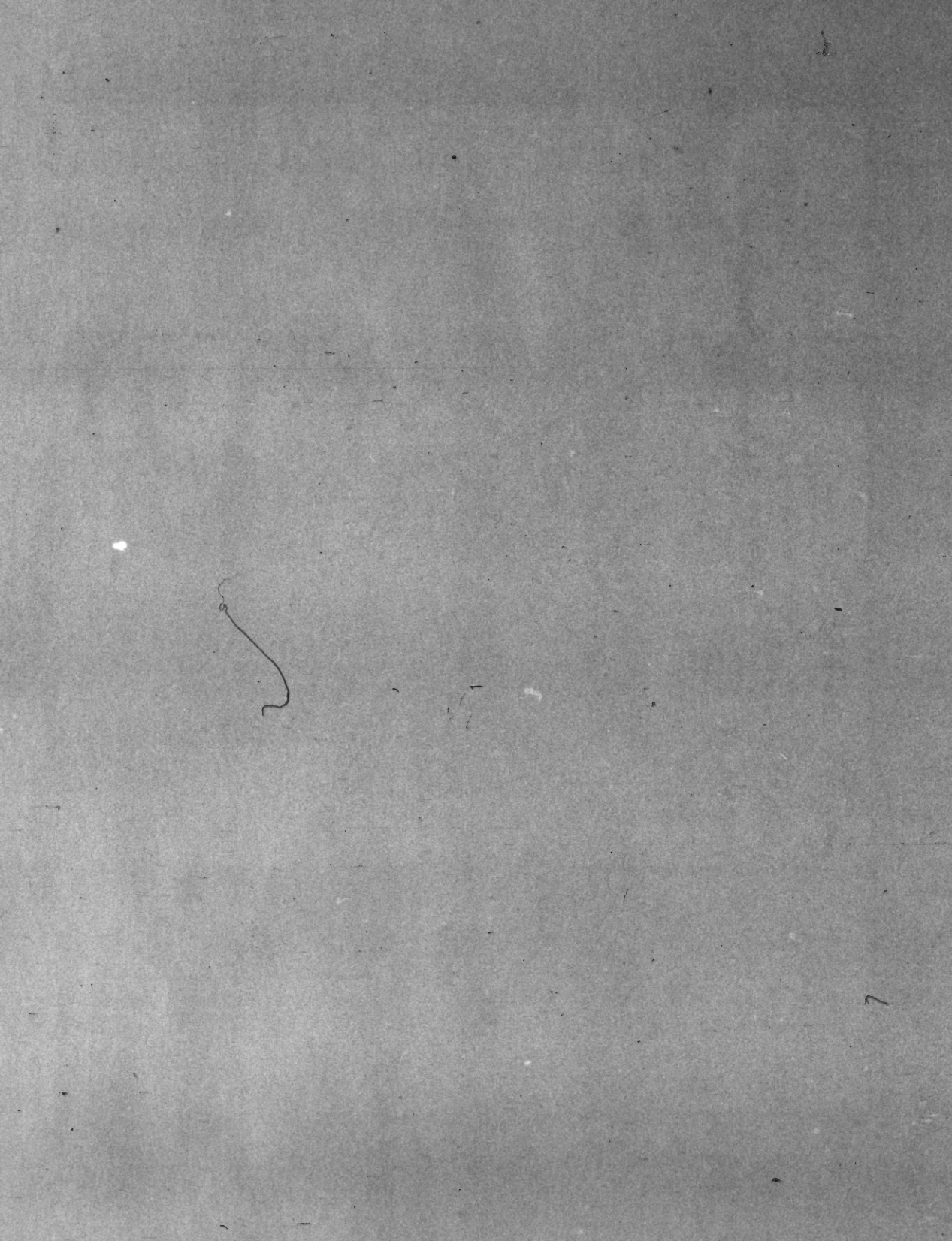
Recd. June 8 -  
9. 73.

Angus June 19. 1799.

To Elder  
Eaac Barber  
of Middleborough









Abie Stinson,

Aug. 23. 1861.

Recd. Sept. 15—

L. B.

Answered Sept. 17. 1861.

Litchfield August 23 1801

Dear Elder

I had joy mingled with sorrow when  
I received your Letter dated June 26. I  
rejoiced to hear from you once more  
but sorrowed to hear of your Loss but could  
not sorrow as tho I had no hope for your  
Dear Companion for I do believe your great  
Loss is her unspeakable gain & the joy  
of the upper world they are not to be  
compared with any thing here below  
the Son I think I have reason to bless God  
holy name for the relief he has given  
me the unworthy that when I drop this  
sinfull body thence Christ's righteousness  
shall rise triumphant in glory

I have had too remarkable exercises  
of mind since I wrote to you one was  
a great discovery of my sinful nature so that  
I was made to lay out a wretched one  
I could but admire at the goodness of God to me  
in keeping me from acting out every thing  
that my sinfull inclination might lead me to  
this exercise serves me in some measure to lay my hands  
on my mouth and not to say to my standing



the other was a more pleasing exercise  
the first of last winter in a meeting at  
our house I was blessed all the morning  
with a remarkable calm peaceable frame  
of mind. the meeting opened with singing  
a divine hymn while singing my ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup>  
mind was raised so far above earthly <sup>to</sup> iniquity  
with the beauty of <sup>you</sup> in holiness that  
I thought I could leave all that was near  
and dear to be with god so that I was <sup>enabled</sup>  
to speak to my dying friends and tell them  
that this is none other than the house  
of god and the gate of heaven and that  
I did believe the saints would rejoice  
at Christ's coming and if <sup>he</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>case</sup> why  
should we mourn for our friends that  
are already with him let us forbear  
and rather rejoice in afflictions

Dear Eliza you have reason to bless god  
for that he has supported you thus far under  
your trouble and his promises still stand good  
Strength shall be equal to the day  
with my love to you and your dear family  
I remain your sincere friend Abia Stinson

To  
The Isaac Barker  
Middleborough



June 2 1800

Dear father in israel  
I take this opportunity to inform you of  
the wonderful dealings of god to my poor  
Soul who am one of the most unworthy of  
his creatures. — But notwithstanding all  
my weakness his grace I believe has been  
sufficient for me — When I was at the  
age of 15 — The Lord was pleased to convince  
me of the shortness of time and the need I had  
of being reconciled to him through his Son  
He also gave me a view of my sinful  
heart — In this distressed condition I  
tried to pray but my prayers looked  
like abomination — But the Lord was  
pleased to deliver me from this burden of sin  
and put a new song in my mouth —  
but in a few moments the tempter  
stepped in and told me I was deceived  
and I readily believed him — And  
thus lived in this unhappy state of

and unbelief almost ~~th~~ twelve years - In  
this time I was looking for the Lord to  
come out in judgement but he appeared  
in mercy - In the beginning of the  
reformation in this place I was at a  
conference meeting where ~~the~~ I think  
Christ spoke to me by the small still  
voice of his spirit - I was filled with  
love to God and to his dear people -  
And the low state of the church  
laid very near my heart - I  
wished to help them but thought it  
was not in my power - But ~~to~~ the  
next day I was led into the ordinance  
of baptism - And a happy day it  
was to my soul - From I believe  
if ever the Lord showed me my own  
nothingness <sup>it was then</sup> - Then I could  
see where my great strength laid  
O that men would praise the Lord for  
his goodness and for his wonderful works  
to the children of men



It is a low time as to religion in our church now. But I believe we have many wrestling jacob's here yet — pray for us that we may be enabled to adorn our professions by our well ordered lives and conversations —

That we may be enabled to withstand all the fiery darts of the enemy — I used to look at christians when at the Lord's table and think ~~the~~ them the happiest people on earth. But now I find my mistake — I find god's people must be tried — They have enemies within and without but I find my greatest enemies are those of my own house — O that the Lord would give us grace and wisdom to run the race set before us looking to the great head of the Church for instruction fathers, family join with me in presenting their respects to yourself your wife and the rest of the family — These from your parent  
Agail Stinson of Litchfield  
& her mother-in-law

Abigail Hinson,  
June 2. 1800.  
No. 26 pt. 19 -  
205.

To Eld  
Franc Backus  
Middleborough



Sir it is with some degree of satisfaction that I set down  
to write to you altho I feel unworthy  
but I trust unworthy as I am that Christ has made interest  
for me and o that I may be enabled to give God the glory  
in the year 1799 it pleased the Lord to put into my hand  
a sermon book of the Rev Mr. Flanders which when I read  
I was as ignorant of the spiritual meaning of it as the  
brute beasts till the Lord was pleased to direct my eyes  
to those lines  
how many might have been wise if they had not thought  
those felices were already  
this seemed like a still whispering into my heart  
you one this selfe wise self-righteous person and now upon  
your own wisdom and righteousness you are got gett. upon  
the brink of hell and you are now at great a distance  
from Christ and have swerved so far from his love  
that you never will obtain to his wisdom  
and o the wisdom of Christ of what worth and value it  
appeared to me my pen nor tongue cannot describe the  
anxious desires of my soul to be one with Christ  
and to share apart in the calling wisdom of Christ that  
I had a discovery of but there it was lost the day of grace  
was past and I felt justly condemned it was sinking  
down into hell as fast as a mill stone would sink in  
the sea and it appeared to be the most suitable place  
for such a rebell sinner that I had sinned so long in  
sin and rebellion against a holy God I felt so much  
of the nature of the Devils in my heart that I thought  
I must go down and dwell with them to all eternity  
now my own righteousness appeared to me like filthy rags  
I saw no way of escape but to cry to the Lord as I did  
as I had breath and I felt I must rest down with the  
sin and the wrath of God that I had not power to beg  
nor pray for mercy but at length the Lord was pleased  
to give me strength to call upon his name  
and the way opened and I saw my Saviour standing  
with his arms extended and I saw him there intending  
for good sinners at the bar now I felt now life in  
my soul now I could pray with ardency and with  
some degree of faith I looked again I saw my Saviour  
turn and look upon me with a smiling  
countenance his face shone with glory then  
as for a time this world as I felt my self beneath  
it I felt I was flying into the arms of my  
Saviour which was my earnest desire I thought I would  
leave all for his sake but now finding my self in  
the body I took the bible in my hand and opened to the  
chap of zachariah there I read and was satisfied  
that I could do all the pleasures I was with pleasure  
and I thought I would do all good things and tell  
them to all that I could find for my joy



Soon after this Satan began to buffet and to throw  
in his fiery darts and to shake me off of my foundation  
but it would be in vain for me to try to describe  
the various seasons of trials and temptations that I have  
past through for some time till the Lord was pleased to  
begin a wonderful work in the place where I lived  
then I knew the language of it it raised my soul to  
to praise the Lord and I went forward in the ordinance  
of baptism feeling constrained thence to find some  
peace in so doing but I find I have a body of  
sin and death in me a law in my flesh warring  
against the law of my mind when I would do  
good evil is present I have a nature within  
that will not be reconciled to God from thence  
I meet with tribulation

Upon the 31 day of Sept October the Lord was pleased  
to take my companion away by death he had  
been sick some time during his sickness  
he past through many doubts and fears  
but the Lord was pleased to deliver him  
from them all when he was called to go he  
rejoiced and praised the Lord to think that he was  
come that he was to be with Christ  
I felt measureable calm at that time believing  
that the Lord's will was done but it is not in  
my power to describe to you my feelings from time  
to time I find it the hardest thing that ever  
nature bear and I expect I in that you can  
sympathize with me in this which none can do  
but those who have experienced the same

Upon the 14 day of Sept <sup>July</sup> the Lord was pleased  
to visit our family again by death in taking my  
youngest sister Sarah Macomber she lay sick 13 weeks  
entirely helpless but the Lord through his abounding  
love and tender mercy was pleased to make her dying bed  
as soft as downy pillows and she often said that she was  
willing to leave what the Lord was pleased to say upon her

~~I have written to you before but I have not~~  
~~time to write to you now~~  
She left a number of poems of her own composing and  
some dialogues of which I expect to have printed  
altho she is dead she yet speaketh

Borevillian

Sydia Stinson  
Sister of the  
Borevillian

August 24 1802



Litchfield August 24-1801

Dear father in the gospel -  
the letter you sent to my wife dated  
June 26-1801 brought fresh to my mind  
the Death of my first wife and I think  
I can witness with your letter and feel  
it in my heart to sympathise with  
you in your trials. What a blessing it is  
to the Dear people of God to mourn with  
them that mourn and to rejoice with  
them that rejoice hereby we gain a  
witness in our hearts that we are the  
members of Christs precious Body. How  
light our afflictions are and short when  
compared with what I Deserve or with  
that eternal weight of glory which trials  
works out for every dear Child of God then  
let us sing of mercy and of judgment.  
two since every bitter thing is sweet to  
the hungry soul and all things work for good  
to them that love God who are the called of God  
According to his purpose and now Dear father  
pray for unworthy me I wish you well soul  
and Body may Gods Work prosper in your  
hands and Middleborough share large in the  
Redeemers grace I must at present take  
my leave of you my unknown  
Respectable friend I am with every  
Sentiment of respect yours William Chilson

7

William Stinson,

Aug. 24. 1801

Recd Sept. 15

2. 73.

Answered Sept. 17. 1801.

Respectable friend, I am with every  
sentiment of respect your William Stinson



October 5. 1783, Mr. Swift  
wrote to me, for some  
straining webbs, because he  
found that my daughter  
made better than he could  
get of the impost. &  
He sent him 24 yards.

I have  
J. G.  
Mr. Isaac Backus.  
Aug. 26. 1784.  
Middlebrough.  
Swift

Dartmouth August 26th 1844

Sir I received an order from you and an amount of web  
that my son & I had of you. my son says there is mistake  
in the wadded web which ought to be as follows 9 yd 3/4  
a 100 yd which I can prove by the piece Mr Luis was  
the price and I have sold it accordingly and it agrees with  
the credit my son gave you and I bought good English web  
before that time for if which was quite as cheap according to  
the quality. and your amount says 10 yd at 1/6 which makes the  
balance in my favor of 6/10 which I trust if you are not satisfied  
before you will be when you see Mr Luis from your humble  
servant

To the Rev Mr Isaac Backus

My son was not at home when  
I answered the order

1841



